



IN THE PINK

Setting the style for a colourful summer

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MATTHEW PARRIS

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VALENTINES

What Squiggle Pops thinks of Bobbles

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THE TIMES

No. 64,378

MONDAY FEBRUARY 14 1994

Clamour for change as MP quits

Major stays on back to basics trail

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR is to plough on with his back-to-basics campaign, even though he is under increasing pressure to drop it after the latest embarrassing disclosures about Baroness Thatcher's successor as MP for Finchley.

Some MPs say the atmosphere among backbenchers is bordering on hysteria after Harley Booth's resignation as a ministerial aide over his relationship with his former use of Commons research assistant. But neither the growing clamour nor worried Tories over an opinion poll suggesting a back to basics should be abandoned has persuaded Mr Major to abandon the slogan. They are the battle for a return to common sense values will continue.

It will, however, be almost exclusively on such issues as education, law and order and the economy, and these

The back to basics slogan may have rebounded on the Government but Tory MPs accept it would be virtually impossible to abandon the crusade

will be no attempt to portray it as any kind of moral crusade. "It was never meant as a return to Victorian values, but the concept will not be ditched," a senior Conservative strategist said last night.

Mr Booth, who stepped down as parliamentary private secretary to the Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg, said yesterday that he had gone "to save any embarrassment to the Government". The MP, a 47-year-old Methodist lay preacher, denied any sexual impropriety with Emily Barr, 22, a former art model who worked for him recently. Finchley Tories rallied to their MP yesterday, and the constituency chairman, Ron Thurlow, said Mr Booth should not have lost his job. "I think he has been a fool," Mr Thurlow said. "It is a lapse that is completely out of character and that is the end of it. I don't know why he had to resign over this: everybody flirts, don't they."

"Perhaps he should have offered his resignation — but why was it accepted? If he was doing a good job, then whoev-

er it was should have said 'I quite understand this. Publish and be damned.' I can only think it is because of the current climate."

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, criticised the press for "harrying and pillorying" people like Mr Booth, and other senior Tories said that had the romance been disclosed a few weeks ago, it is unlikely that Mr Booth would have had to resign. But coming after several weeks of embarrassment for the Government and Mr Major's warning to the 1992 Committee that he would take a tougher line with errant MPs and ministers, there was no choice.

A poll in *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday suggested that 64 per cent of people believed that the Conservatives now gave the impression of being "very sleazy and disreputable" and 39 per cent said recent scandals would affect how they voted at the next election. Only 30 per cent thought the back-to-basics campaign should continue, while 56 per cent said it should be dropped. Finchley Conser-

vatives questioned yesterday also felt that the idea should be "quietly forgotten". Conservative MPs admitted last night that the latest incident left the back-to-basics slogan looking even more tattered, but they accepted that it would be virtually impossible for the Government to drop it. "We must continue to follow the original idea of stressing the importance of traditional values and hope that the ballyhoo over morals dies down," a strategist said.

Mr Booth had originally denied the reports about his relationship with Miss Barr, but he changed his version of events when he was shown copies of love poems that he had written. "On the Richter scale, this may not be a grave thing for anyone else," he said. "But for me it's like the most awful thing in my whole life. It's just a nightmare. I feel like death over it."

The MP was in hiding away from his Norfolk home last night, but he issued a statement saying: "Following my immediate resignation to save any embarrassment to the Government, my principal and main concern is for my three children and my wife, with whom I remain together happily married, and also my friends and supporters, particularly the Finchley and Priern Barnet Conservative Association, from whom I have had overwhelming support."

Ministers and MPs reacted to yesterday's disclosures with exasperation and disbelief, while for the Prime Minister, dogged by scandals since the new year, a three-day trip to Russia beginning today will come as a relief from domestic troubles.

Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster, said that in resigning, Mr Booth had set an example to his superiors in the Government. "There are one or two examples of people who, if they had behaved in the same way, things would not be as they are today."

Mr Temple-Morris said it would be a rash man who suggested there were no other skeletons in the Tory cupboard, but he added: "If there are skeletons which still remain, let them remain firmly where they belong, in the cupboard with the door locked."

Dame Jill Knight, MP for Edgmonton, said: "Any catalogue of scandals is worrying. But all of this, though certainly deplorable in many ways, has nothing to do with the major business of the principles my colleagues and I believe in."



Tommy Moe, an American who has never won a World Cup skiing race, taking the blue ribbon event at the Winter Olympics when he pipped Kjetil Andre Aamodt by four hundredths of a second in the men's downhill in

Kvitfjell, Norway, yesterday. When Aamodt took the lead with 1min 45.79sec, Norwegians in the 40,000 crowd began to celebrate but the cheers were cut short when Moe, 23, came in with a time of 1:45.75. Page 23

General Rose says his finger is on the air strike button

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

BRITAIN'S Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, commander of United Nations forces in Bosnia and architect of a ceasefire that could become the turning point in the siege of Sarajevo, said yesterday that he would be the man who would take the final decision on whether to call in air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions.

Such strikes would only take place in conjunction with his efforts on the ground. "There will be no air strikes in this country unless I give the order for them," he told *The Times*.

General Rose disclosed that before accepting his post he had had discussions in London, New York and Paris about how he proposed to handle the conflict. He said that last week's Nato ultimatum was made only after consultations with UN officials in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and that it has given him a "big stick" with which to "motivate" the two parties to co-operate.

There has been confusion over the chain of command for air strikes. But on Friday Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, delegated the decision to Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy in Yugoslavia, who has forged close links with General Rose.

General Rose accused the Muslims of minor ceasefire breaches designed to provoke the Serbs, remarking: "I think this point should be made quite clear." To ensure that he knows the precise location of any gun that fires, the general has requested a American-made ground radar that pinpoints the source of mortar and artillery fire.

Nato ground-surveillance planes have been overflying the city each night, tracking vehicle and weapon movements and locating any gun



Rose: "I have the might of Nato behind me"

Sarajevo. "Anybody who shoots at them, they are going to fire back. I am certainly not going to withdraw my troops on the ground."

General Rose believes that the Nato ultimatum has convinced the Bosnian Serb leadership to end the artillery assaults on Sarajevo, and that air strikes will not therefore prove necessary. Yesterday

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Nightmare children, page 14
Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article and letters, page 17

Howard rethinking drug fines

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

MICHAEL Howard is to reconsider plans to increase the maximum fine for possession of cannabis and amphetamines to £2,500 after severe criticism from police and magistrates' leaders.

The proposed increase in the fine is seen by the Home Secretary as a way of signalling that drug taking is taken seriously. Instead he was accused of not thinking through the consequences.

His proposal to stiffen the maximum fine comes as an investigation by *The Times* reveals that soft drugs are widely available and easily bought in England's shire counties.

A Home Office spokesman said: "It has not been decided whether it will go ahead. He might decide in the light of what the police say not to bring forward the amendment."

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Stores boost for Branson lottery bid

By Colin Naeve

MARKS and Spencer has promised seriously to consider backing the bid for the national lottery licence led by Richard Branson and Lord Young of Grafton.

The move by M&S, Tesco and Sainsbury's concentrates the argument over who should win the lottery franchise on to who can provide the biggest return for charity.

M&S has rejected any lottery involvement on ethical grounds, but it now says it would seriously consider backing a successful bid by the UK Lottery Foundation, which alone of the expected bidders promises to turn all proceeds to charity.

Applications to run the lottery must be submitted today.

Beneficent Branson, page 9
Making Britons rich, page 42
M&S move, page 44

Adams 'preparing to ditch' peace deal

By Nicholas Watt and Philip Webster

GERRY Adams gave another significant rebuff to the Anglo-Irish peace initiative yesterday when he urged Britain to persuade Northern Ireland's one million Protestants to back a united Ireland.

The Sinn Féin president was making a demand that he knows John Major has rejected and could not possibly accept, reinforcing the impression that he may be preparing the ground for ditching the initiative.

Mr Adams said: "Unless the British Government makes that small step forward it cannot say it is interested in peace. The British Government has to join the persuaders and say to the Unionists their future lies with the rest of Ireland."

He reiterated his demand for the Government to clarify last December's Downing Street declaration and called

on Mr Major to remove the Unionist veto over political developments in Northern Ireland.

Mr Adams, who is still basking in his New York public relations triumph, told *ITV's* *Walden* programme: "It is totally wrong that any section of our people should have a veto over progress. Now at the same time republicans recognise that this section of our people, the Unionists, need to be persuaded, need to be brought into the process, we need their consent."

"If John Major refuses to give clarifications then it's impossible for us to give a definitive response," he emphasised.

His remarks were seen by British ministers as another delaying tactic. They fear that

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McGlinchey funeral, page 2

Mystery of the V & A's dodgy brass dolphin

By Alison Roberts
Arts Reporter



That dolphin: given away by a newspaper

CURATORS at the Victoria and Albert Museum have turned detective after discovering that part of the centrepiece in an important furniture exhibition is a fake. Experts are now reassessing many of the 40 exhibits of 18th century English furniture, attributed to master craftsman John Channon.

In addition it is thought that an identifiable group of works was in fact designed by the greatest of all cabinet-makers, Thomas Chippendale.

As staff moved the central exhibit in the show — one of two famous bookcases from Powderham Castle in Exeter — they were astonished to find a small piece of newspaper wedged between the plinth and the shelves. The paper bore the date

July 29, 1863, 90 years later than the assumed date for the piece.

Further investigation showed that the plinth, bearing an intricate dolphin design, was a fake 19th century addition. Suddenly, the attribution of many other pieces in the exhibition appeared suspect, including one highly important piece also with brass dolphins.

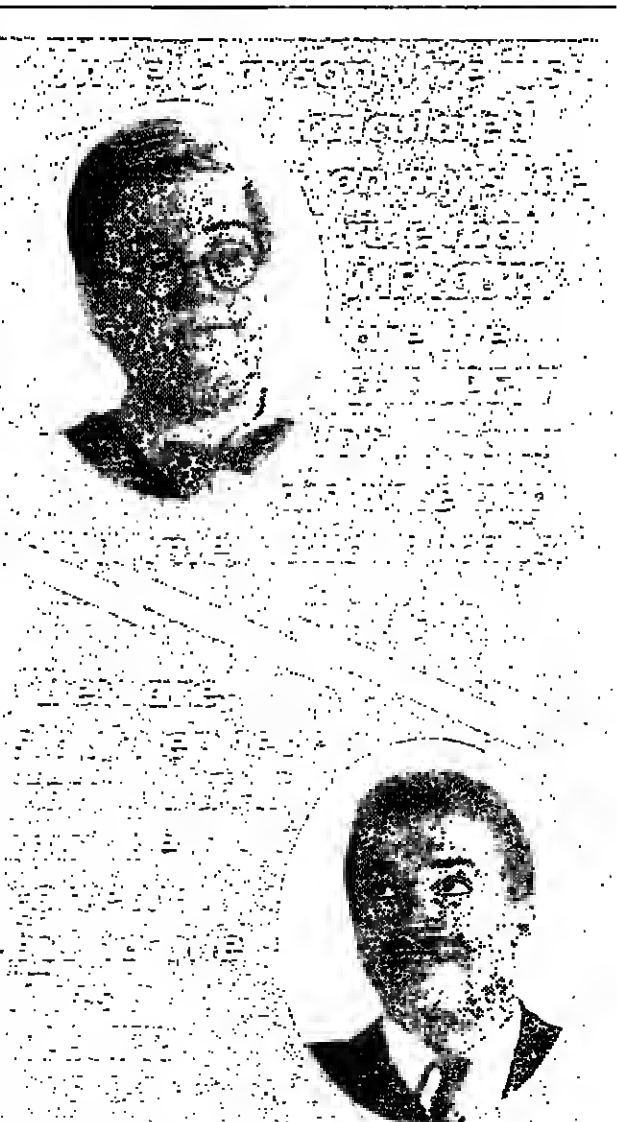
The implications for the antiques world are huge. Channon was previously credited with the creation of nearly all high-quality brass inlaid furniture made between 1730 and 1760, but now a whole host of other furniture-makers appear to have been producing similar pieces.

The discovery is bound to make an impact on sales and prices: until July of last year, the world record auction price for a piece of English furniture was held by an ornate library table attributed to

Channon. It sold for £1.1 million. Tessa Murdoch, curator of the exhibition which opens on Wednesday, described the Powderham bookcase as "the Rosetta Stone for English brass-inlaid furniture of the 18th century."

She said: "The discovery was incredibly exciting. We started to question whether everything that was attributed to John Channon really is by him."

The original catalogue prepared for the exhibition is now out of date and Dr Murdoch describes the show as "portraying research in progress". Very little information about who made what is now certain and the museum is looking forward to some *Antiques Road Show*-style discoveries as visitors are invited to compare the exhibits with pieces they may have at home.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Capsized canoeist feared drowned

A canoeist is presumed to have drowned after capsizing in the flooded Thames yesterday. The 32-year-old man was with three other men, thought to be members of the Royal Canoe Club, in Twickenham, southwest London. They were paddling from Sonning, near Reading, to Datchet, 12 miles away. Police said the missing man was not wearing a lifejacket. He was with a friend in a two-man canoe when they capsized under a bridge between Windsor and Eton.

In Sunderland, 15 people were rescued as waves crashed over a pier. Coastguards and ambulance staff were called to the pier at Roker after a report that one person had been injured and another washed into the sea by a freak wave. Three were lifted by helicopter and the rest clambered to safety through a tunnel in the pier. No one was found in the sea.

The freezing weather is expected to continue at least until tomorrow, the London Weather Centre said last night. "There will be snow flurries with the possibility of blizzards tomorrow when milder weather starts to move up from the south," a spokesman said. Forecast, page 22

Kidnapped MPs return

Two MPs who escaped Somali kidnappers during a fact-finding tour returned to Britain yesterday. Tony Worthington, Labour MP for Clydebank and Milngavie, and Mark Robinson, Conservative MP for Somerset and Frome, had been held for 24 hours in northwest Somalia. Mr Worthington, 52, the Opposition spokesman on overseas aid, will be summoned by Labour Whips today to explain why he defied a party ban on the practice of "pairing-off", whereby rival members are able to be absent from the House without affecting parliamentary votes.

NHS trusts 'in trouble'

Trust hospitals are struggling to cope with the soaring cost of emergency admissions and more than 50 NHS trusts and 20 health authorities are in financial trouble, a Labour Party survey claimed yesterday. David Blunkett, shadow Health Secretary, said GPs were having to admit patients as emergency cases to ensure they received treatment.

Low pay rates worsen

The abolition of Wages Councils in August 1993 has resulted in an "alarming" erosion of pay rates, according to a national survey published today. Nearly one in five vacancies in former Wages Council sectors is being offered at rates below the former council levels, said the study by the Manchester-based Low Pay Network.

Runaway girl due home

A schoolgirl who ran away with a school laboratory technician is due to fly home from Switzerland today. Nicola Adams, 13, from Shotton, Clwyd, disappeared three weeks ago with Martin Kitching, 27. They were traced to a hotel in Interlaken, Switzerland. Mr Kitching was arrested when he arrived back at Dover yesterday.

Jail birds get new home

Des Quigley, 53, who is serving life for murder, yesterday introduced some of the birds he has bred in Nottingham prison to their new aviary, built by inmates. Quigley, from Glasgow, has bred 10,000 budgerigars, canaries, parrots and cockatiels, 100 of which share his cell. He has taught several of the parrots to sing "Hickory Dickory Dock".



Martin McGuinness, right, carries Dominic McGlinchey's coffin with the dead man's brother Sean, centre

Family buries killer who knew his time had come

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of mourners turned out yesterday for the funeral of Dominic McGlinchey, one of Ulster's most brutal republican paramilitaries, who was shot dead last Thursday.

Martin McGuinness, the vice-president of Sinn Féin, joined scores of relatives and sympathisers who took it in turns to carry the coffin, which was draped in the Irish tricolour. Mr McGuinness was a former associate of McGlinchey's in the 1970s before the man known as "Mad Dog" left the IRA to join the Irish National Liberation Army.

Scores of police in RUC armour-plated vans escorted the cortege on a grey and cold afternoon as it made its way from McGlinchey's family home in the village of Bellaghy in Co Londonderry to the local Roman Catholic church.

As the mourners reached St Mary's church, McGlinchey's son, Dominic, 16, who wit-

nessed his father's murder, joined with his brother, Declan, to carry the coffin the final yards into the building for the service.

The two teenagers, who also witnessed the murder of their mother, Mary, in 1987, left a wreath in the shape of "DAD". A note read: "We will always love you and remember you. To the best father in the world."

At the packed funeral mass Father Michael Flanagan told the mourners that McGlinchey, who led the INLA, had suffered a hard and violent death. He said that there was a bit of good in the worst of people, and added that God had allowed McGlinchey to die with a prayer in his lips.

McGlinchey died in Drogheda, Co Louth, last Thursday night after three gunmen opened fire on him as he used

a public call box next to the town's hospital. His killers were believed to have been former INLA associates who were settling a ten-year-old feud. The dispute was also linked with the death of Mary McGlinchey, who was gunned down at her home in Dundalk in front of her sons.

After the mass, McGlinchey's coffin was carried out of the church for burial and the Irish flag was wrapped round it again. Mourners packed into the graveyard where McGlinchey was buried in a plot next to his wife. Another tricolour flew beside the graves.

Bernadette McAliskey, the former nationalist MP, who gave the funeral oration, described McGlinchey as incorruptible. She described the man who had boasted that he had been responsible for 30 deaths as the "finest republican who never did an inglorious deed".

Mrs McAliskey then provoked the crowd into turning against the press by criticising the media coverage of McGlinchey's death. Referring to journalists Mrs McAliskey, who is a columnist herself, said: "May every last one of them rot in hell." Some of the crowd turned to the reporters covering the funeral and shouted abuse.

In an interview published yesterday, which was carried out two weeks before his death, McGlinchey said he knew he was being stalked by a family who were determined to kill him.

He told the Dublin *Sunday Press* that a family from Armagh, with whom he had feuded in the 1980s, had been responsible for a murder attempt on him after he was released from Portlaoise prison in the Irish republic last year.

McGlinchey said that he could feel them coming after him and added: "These men are crazy. They are driven. They will stop at nothing."

Oxford lures state pupils with crash course in Latin

By JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

OXFORD University is to open up its renowned classics degrees to students without A-level Latin to counter the decline in the subject in state schools.

Applications from independent schools to take Greats, which covers Latin and Greek, have remained buoyant and entry standards are the highest in Britain. But dons are increasingly concerned at the dwindling number of state school candidates.

Only 1,000 of the 13,000 pupils taking GCSE Latin go on to study the subject in the sixth form. Academics believe that Oxford's insistence on A-level is depriving the university of some potentially outstanding students.

Oxford undergraduates have been able to start ancient Greek from scratch since 1972. Almost a third of classics students do so. From 1995, up to 24 places a year will be added for those denied opportunities to study an ancient language.

The new courses, which are expected to be launched this week, will take four years rather than the usual three. The students will be expected to keep up with A-level entrants after a crash programme of language training in the first year.

Money raised in Oxford's successful fund raising campaign will be used to employ specialist teachers in both languages. Graduate students are being trained as instructors.

Most of the candidates are likely to have taken a modern language at A-level, and some will also have studied a non-linguistic classical civilisation or ancient history course.

A number of other universities have adapted to the switch from Latin to classical civilisation courses by offering non-linguistic classics degrees. Oxford's fast-track language training will be a more challenging option for those giving up Latin at GCSE.

Dr Peter Jones, a spokesman for the National Coordinating Committee for Classics, said: "The university is missing out on some state students of excellent calibre by restricting its intake. It cannot afford to do so in this day and age."

However, Dr Jones, senior classics lecturer at Newcastle University, predicted there would be few applications. "To go from GCSE to Greats standard in five terms is exceptionally demanding. You would have to be a linguistic masochist to do that."

Dr Mary Beard, director of studies in classics at Newnham College, Cambridge, said there were no immediate reforms planned at Cambridge. "We stand by the argument that you must support classics in state schools."

Oxford is to accept Open University students on its continuing education programmes under an agreement signed last week.

Patten considers free nursery plan

By OUR EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS are considering free nursery places for all four year-olds as a transitional stage to the Prime Minister's target of universal state education from the age of three.

The Education Department dismissed as speculation a report yesterday that agreement had been reached. But John Patten, the Education Secretary, admitted last month that nothing was ruled out in the search for an improved nursery system.

Britain lags behind other European countries and America in availability of nursery places. Less than half of three and four-year-olds are in nursery classes, and the level of provision varies widely between education authorities.

Free places for the whole

age group could add about £860 million to the cost of state education, on a time when the Treasury is reviewing long-term spending throughout Whitehall. However, John Major has stated that he would prefer to put extra money for education into nurseries than into schools.

Pre-school provision is certain to be a key educational issue at the next general election. Labour is already making political capital out of it and ministers will be under strong pressure to respond.

Mr Patten has said repeatedly that substantial improvements can only be made when public spending constraints have eased. But the large number of "rising five" already attending primary schools would make a commitment on four-year-olds alone an economical first step.

Civil servants have been looking at various options for expanding the number of free places. A voucher system extending access to private nursery places is the most likely long-term outcome.

Studies in the United States have suggested that pre-school education not only raises achievements at school but helps towards cutting juvenile crime. Last year the independent National Commission on Education said the extension of free nursery places at three and four was the single most important advance that could be made in education policy.

Adams plays for time on peace initiative

Continued from page 1
Mr Adams is engaged in a step-by-step exercise to discredit the declaration without disowning it outright at this stage.

Government officials said they did not see Mr Adams's words as the final Sinn Féin response. "When it comes we do not expect to hear it on the Walden programme," an official said.

Mr Adams also said that the Government should spell out the mechanisms and policy objectives in its peace process.

The Sinn Féin president is trying to extract as many guarantees and concessions as he can from both governments. But he knows that London has consistently refused to clarify the declaration, and Albert Reynolds, the

Taoiseach, is rapidly losing patience after clarifying the document in letters to Mr Adams and in numerous speeches.

Dublin had hoped for a definitive Sinn Féin response during its annual party conference on February 26. But Sinn Féin effectively ruled this out at the weekend by announcing that it would hold a public "peace commission" in Belfast after the conference. Both governments now accept that Sinn Féin will drag out the process for months without giving an answer.

Mr Adams, whose words were reproduced by an actor's voice, described the declaration as "a masterpiece of ambiguity, about which both governments have different interpretations".

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All the business world loves a lover

Florists, restaurants and the card industry are reporting record sales this St Valentine's day, Robin Young reports

St Valentine is setting records this year. The cheaper red roses are selling at £3 a stem, heart-shaped oysters are up in price as much as 50p each, and the Royal Mail is claiming a 10 per cent increase in cards sent first-class.

Roses have been rushed from Israel. The Netherlands, Colombia, Kenya and the Canary Islands to satisfy florists' demand, with some shops reporting sales up 50 per cent on last year. At Harrods, single specimens have been seen at £50 each.

The number of Valentines winging their way by first-class post this year has reached almost nine million, reaping £2.25 million in revenue. The card industry is convinced that it has easily bettered last year's sales when Valentines grossed £26.5 million with more than 20 million cards sold.

If the whole world loves a lover, none does so more ardently than the hotel and restaurant trade, which looks to St Valentine to boost Monday's takings.

At London hotels the romantically inclined are offered the traditional pink champagne, oysters, asparagus, caviar and foie gras with hotel bedrooms if required, and this year they can have

them all cut-price. The Lanesborough Hotel at Hyde Park Corner is offering its five-course meal for two, overnight accommodation in a junior suite and English breakfast and overnight parking for £293.75. It would normally cost £555.25.

There were, however, no takers for one of the most ambitious Valentine's programmes. The Rookery Hall country house hotel near Nantwich, Cheshire, proposed a romantic weekend including the services of a chauffeur, butler, maid and harpist, a helicopter flight over the Lake District to Gretna Green and a succession of sumptuous foods and vintage wines, at a cost of £6,750 per couple.

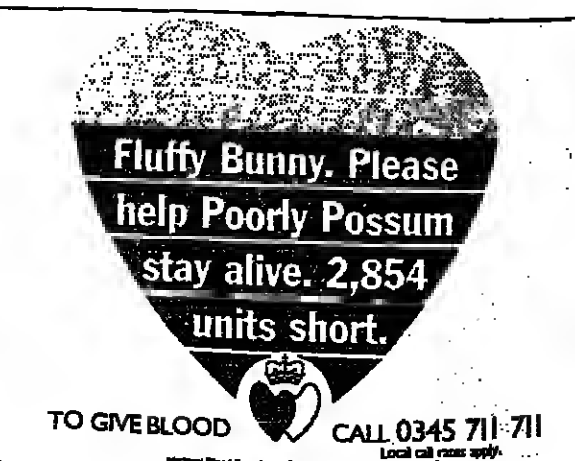
"We had one American who was seriously interested," Jennifer Williams, the hotel's sales manager, said, "but eventually he had to get back to the States on business". Love, after all, does not quite conquer all.

For those with palates jaded by traditional aphrodisiacal delights, ethnic restaurants offer some hot novelties. The Haweli chain of Indian restaurants in Surrey and south London has a Valentine menu for £16.95 a head including a luscious combination of tender tikka, korma, kishu, Valentine vindaloo and passion pulao.

The *Times* today contains two pages of richly soppy word-play, messages from the heart gushing with sentimentality and thinly disguised sexual innuendo. On pages 20 and 21 you will discover what it is that Greep thinks will ingratiate him (or is it her?) to Bobbie Bombom. There too you will find what Snappy feels for Bhubbell and what Ratso has to thank Bangle for.

Our advertisers this year also include Witchyoo, the Drunk, Big Brewfish, Hi Pot and King Frog, doubtless ardent lovers all.

Amid the exotica it is strangely comforting to come across so straightforward an entry as the one that reads: "Beryl. Hope you see this. It's the only one I have ever sent. Ron." Beryl, are you reading this?



'They're all at it now, and I don't see any reason why Booth should resign'

Finchley forgives 'foolish' MP whose only sin was to flirt

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Conservatives of Finchley closed ranks in defence of their MP, Hartley Booth, yesterday after his resignation as parliamentary private secretary to Douglas Hogg, the foreign minister. But they also made clear that the Prime Minister's back-to-basics campaign was an embarrassment that should be conveniently forgotten.

At Margaret Thatcher House, the offices of the Finchley and Friern Barnet Conservative Association, the view was that public moralising was placing added pressure on members of Parliament. Across the road at the Finchley Methodist church, where Mr Booth is a lay preacher, the mood was one of sadness and Christian forgiveness.

Ron Thurlow, the local party chairman, said Mr Booth had been a fool but added that he was surprised the MP had chosen to resign as a PPS after newspaper reports of his friendship with Emily Barr, his former researcher. "I can only think it was because of the current climate," he said. "I don't know why he had to resign over this. Everybody flirts, don't they? If he was doing a good job, then whoever it was, and I suppose that is Douglas Hogg, should have said, 'I quite understand this. Publish and be damned'."

His surprise was shared by Mark Booth, the minister at the church, who is not related to Mr Booth. He described his namesake as a fine preacher in the Methodist tradition, who was always warmly received at the church and whom he regarded as a friend. "I would like to think that his local party will be very understanding and supportive," he said.

Hartley Booth was chosen to succeed Baroness Thatcher, and held Finchley for the Conservatives in the 1992 general election with a reduced majority of 6,388. For a constituency reported to have more high-priced properties (valued at more than £160,000) than any other in London, it is more marginal than might be expected, and proposed boundary changes, whereby it would acquire two wards from Hendon and lose one to Barnet, are likely to make it even more so.

But Mr Thurlow said there was no question of Mr Booth being asked to resign as an MP. "I was at a social function last night at which I said I

would tell Hartley that he had 100 per cent backing from the constituency, and it was greeted with clapping and cheers.

"I believe Hartley resigned his office not because he was guilty but because of the high moral stance he has always taken."

A sign in the window of the building advertised a surgery for those seeking help and advice from their MP. A party worker confessed that life was less exciting than when the MP was also the Prime Minister, but said that Mr Booth was a good man and very popular.

Over the road, homeless men and women were queuing in flurries of snow for a hot meal in the church hall. Worshippers leaving the morning service were mostly reluctant to talk about Mr Booth but said prayers had been offered for him and his family.

Norman Burgess, 71, a retired junior school headmaster and former chairman of the Finchley Society, said he had never voted Conservative, "but I jolly well hope he doesn't resign as MP."

"I have been in hospital twice recently and he wrote to me personally each time. How many MPs would do that? As a Christian I support him entirely in his hour of need. What has happened has not diminished him in any way. We are all sinners."

Outside an off-licence down the road David Miller, a self-employed hairdresser and property dealer, said he had voted Conservative at the last election but would not do so again. "Things have come to a pretty poor pass," he said. "But they're all at it now, and I don't see any reason why Booth should resign."

Major pressure, page 1
Matthew Parris, page 16



Emily Barr: former model took a pay rise to work for Hartley Booth

Woman saves her drowning husband

By JENNY KNIGHT

THE wife of a millionaire property developer dived into an icy river to rescue her unconscious 14-stone husband and then kept his head above water for 10 minutes until the fire brigade arrived.

Douglas Gascoine, 60, of Southwell, Nottinghamshire, was "poozy" in the intensive care unit of Lincoln County Hospital last night. His wife Rachel, 50, was discharged from hospital after treatment for hypothermia.

Mr Gascoine fell into the Trent while the couple were walking along the riverbank on their way to a party in Newark-on-Trent. Mrs Gascoine heard a splash as he hit the water and immediately took off her shoes and coat while shouting for help, before plunging into the fast-flowing waters.

She said yesterday: "The water was so cold it took my breath away. I kept swimming around groping for Douglas, who wasn't making a sound. When I found him he was unconscious."

"I didn't think I stood much chance of lifting him out so I trod water, keeping his head above the surface and trying to stop water entering the hole in his throat from a recent operation."

"The fire brigade were marvellous. They concentrated on getting Douglas out of the water first because he was obviously in a bad way." Passers-by who heard Mrs Gascoine's screams for help alerted the emergency services. The couple were both taken to Newark General Hospital. Mr Gascoine was transferred later to Lincoln County Hospital when his condition worsened. Mrs Gascoine and her three children Emma, 24, Christopher, 22 and Sarah, 20, spent yesterday at his bedside.

A family friend said: "Everyone is praising Rachel for her bravery. The river was deep and bitterly cold, but she didn't hesitate. She has always been a fearless horse-riding and her courage came through on this occasion."

Financial worry drove man to kill his family

By A STAFF REPORTER

FINANCIAL worries drove a businessman to shoot his wife and son and then turn the gun on himself, relatives said yesterday. Alan Taylor, 63, his wife Joan, 58, and their son Grant, 31, were directors of a family business said to be on the brink of collapse.

Mr Taylor told a friend about the perilous state of the company shortly before the three were found dead at their home in Galeshead, Tyne and Wear, his brother Dennis said.

"He took the two people he loved most in the world with him because they could not bear to be parted. You can imagine the state of my brother's mind," he said.

Detectives investigating the case said they were considering alternative theories of a suicide pact or murder by one family member followed by suicide.

Mr Taylor left a series of notes addressed to family members which police removed from the scene. Legal documents and a will were found in a shed.

An elderly relative, alerted after Mr Taylor pushed a note through her letterbox during the night, found the couple in bed together and Grant in another room. Two Calor gas canisters had been left turned on.

The three victims were directors of the Abbot (NE) Ltd, a concrete and building materials firm based at Blaydon. The company was under investigation for matters including a failure to file up-to-date accounts. The last figures, lodged in June 1991, showed a pre-tax loss of £58,000, compared with a profit of £165,000 in 1989. Its overdraft with the Yorkshire Bank stood at £99,751 and interest payments on debts were more than £50,000 a year.

Dennis Taylor said: "If they had told us the whole family would have rallied together and we would have got them over it. We were the closest-knit family you could ask for but Alan did not want to be seen as a failure."



Ron Thurlow: "I don't know why he resigned"

Unlikely grist to the tabloid mill

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

HARTLEY Booth, more than anyone else from his Class of '92, epitomised the old-fashioned, solid and dependable Tory backbencher.

At 47, he was older than most of the 63 Tory MPs who took their seats for the first time at the last general election. He had gravitas; he was a family man with three children and a Methodist lay preacher. To some he appeared pompous, to others humble. No one would ever imagine him splashed across the tabloids for having got into a scrape with a girl.

Until yesterday, Mr Booth's greatest distinguishing factor was that he had stepped into Margaret Thatcher's shoes when he was chosen as Conservative candidate for Finchley, beating about 230 other hopefuls. Mrs Thatcher's agent was the favourite, but somehow Mr Booth managed to beat them all at the eleventh hour.

Mr Booth (he dropped his first name Edward) had previously worked with the former Prime Minister as her adviser on law and order in the Downing Street policy unit. He would see Mrs Thatcher almost every day and was devoted to her. "People who are used to her love her," Mr Booth said.

He had a wobbly start in the House after signing a motion challenging the Maastricht treaty on European union. But he soon buckled under pres-

sure from the Whips, removing the offending signature.

He was rewarded by being appointed parliamentary private secretary to the Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg. With a first step on the rung, he was looking forward to promotion.

As became apparent this weekend, Mr Booth is a poet as well as having been a barrister. It started as a hobby while he was waiting in for cases in Chambers, but later he published some nonsense verses under a pseudonym.

He attended Queen's School, Taunton, and read law at Bristol before meeting his wife Adrienne at Cambridge.

Mr Booth can now get back to his biography of William the Conqueror, which he has been working on for 15 years, and writing his column in the local paper.



Booth: epitome of old-fashioned Tory

Student has firm opinions on sex

By LIN JENKINS

EMILY Barr took delight in spanning the political divide in Westminster by working for Labour after her romance with Hartley Booth ended, and with it her job in his office.

By her own admission she had never shared the politics of the man who was once one of Margaret Thatcher's law and order advisers at the No 10 policy unit. Once installed in the office of Peter Mandelson, Labour MP for Hartlepool, she claimed to have been attending meetings of the Socialist Workers Party in Mr Booth's Finchley constituency while working for him.

She told a journalist that when John Major asked Mr Booth to contribute to his speech on law and order at last year's Tory conference she "cynically" supplied a few suggestions.

Miss Barr, 22, first met Mr Booth when she had tea with him after going to lobby him on the Immigration Bill. She explained that she was a student and he asked how she managed on her grant. She told him she posed as a life model for art students for £5 an hour. He offered her a 50p an hour pay rise to become a research assistant.

Acquaintances believe it is unlikely she needed the money. As a postgraduate student studying the history of art at the Courtauld Institute in London, she lives in a

mansion block in Morpeth Terrace, Victoria, where rents are high.

She won last year's prestigious The Guardian/National Union of Students Journalist of the Year award for her "relaxed, mature and intelligent" articles in *London Student*.

Miss Barr has also found her way into national newspapers on the subject of date rape and the rules of university liaisons. She told the *Daily Mail*: "Going to bed with a man no longer automatically means having full sex, though for me if it got to an orgasmic situation I would personally feel a little guilty about saying 'no'. But quite often you know it isn't going to go beyond the cosy thing, the kissing and hugging, sleeping with someone - quite literally because that is all you want."

In an open letter in *The Guardian* after the trial of Austin Osman Spare, the student who was cleared of rape, Miss Barr blamed "men in their forties" who ran newspapers and television for the amazement expressed at a woman objecting to a man's advances after getting drunk, kissing him and being escorted home.

When working for Mr Mandelson she described herself as an "executive assistant". He said: "She worked in my office temporarily for a couple of days a week typing."

Rivals up stakes in bid to stage Beatles

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

THE battle is on to stage the first live concert by The Beatles in 24 years. As the group's three remaining members head back to the studios to record new music, two big-name promoters are offering platforms at summer festivals this year.

One bid comes from Sidney Bernstein, the New York entrepreneur who first took The Beatles to the United States. He wants the group to make its comeback at the 25th anniversary of Woodstock.

The other bid has been made by Raymond Foulk, director of the Isle of Wight Freshwater Festival.

Mr Bernstein is reportedly prepared to pay the group £17 million, while Mr Foulk's offer is a mere £2.5 million. Yesterday, however, the British bid upped the stakes and promised to

match any offer made by the Americans. Mr Foulk said: "My information is that the remaining members of The Beatles do not want to play in America but Britain."

The Isle of Wight offer comes with a good pedigree. The festival organisers persuaded Bob Dylan to give his only commercial performance in an eight-year period and staged Jimi Hendrix's last big gig in 1970.

No love is lost between the two promoters. In a letter to The Beatles containing his offer, Mr Foulk said his event was more appropriate for a reunion than the "ideas being bandied about in the media from the likes of the proposed Woodstock revival event."

Meanwhile, mystery tracks from Beatles' master tapes held in vaults are soon to be released. George Martin, the

group's former producer, is selecting recordings for between four and six new compact disc releases.

Although sources at Abbey Road Studios, where Beatles' archives are held, said that Mr Martin had not been seen for several months, he made regular visits to the London studios last year.

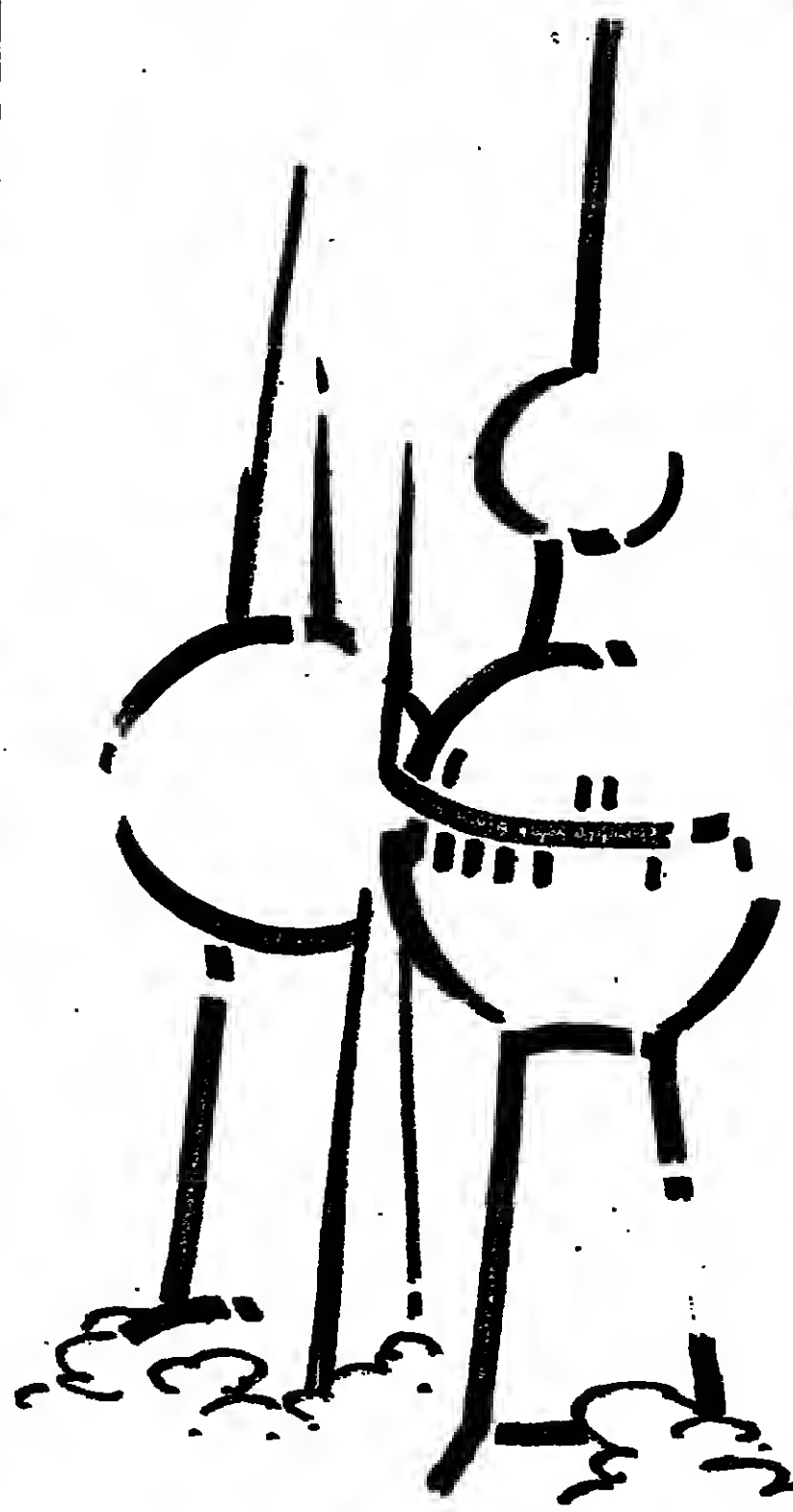
Details are guarded with ferocity, but tracks under consideration reportedly include *Etcetera*, a Lennon-McCartney number recorded for the *White Album*; the only McCartney-Harrison number recorded, a 1958 ballad *In Spite of All The Danger*; and George Gershwin's *Summertime*. The latter might not be of the highest quality. It was sung impromptu by Paul McCartney, George Harrison and John Lennon in a Hamburg recording booth.

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Now, Mr Major, what about Tuzla?



Bosnian Muslims staying in a centre for displaced people in Tuzla, December 1993

At last, action has been taken to help the people of Sarajevo. But while the world, rightly, is showing compassion for the besieged capital, the war in Bosnia continues to kill, maim and starve people in other towns and cities.

In Tuzla, over a quarter of a million people – many displaced, many elderly and poor – depend on a thin and vulnerable humanitarian lifeline.

The time has come to open Tuzla airport for humanitarian relief flights, so the food and clothing so desperately needed by so many people can be sent straight there, straight away.

Britain's is one of a handful of governments which can help achieve this. Through the UN, it can and must take swift and firm action.

The situation is critical. Last month only 20 per cent of food requirements got through to the city, and this slow strangulation looks set to continue. The increasing threat of malnutrition and starvation is met only with increasing shelling.

Tuzla, like Sarajevo, is a designated UN "Safe Area".

Its people are supposed to be protected.

Oxfam is working in Tuzla. We've delivered over 190,000 items of warm clothing donated by the people of Britain, and lives have been saved. But much more still needs to be done.

Help re-open Tuzla airport, Mr Major.
And keep it open.

**If you're as concerned as we are about the people
of Tuzla, and want to help, phone (0865) 312603.**



Arsonists kill six horses in 'evil' attack on stables

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

SIX horses were burnt to death when arsonists set fire to their stables after dousing the animals and their bedding with petrol early on Saturday. The horses were unable to escape the blaze because petrol had also been poured across the entrance to the stable block.

Staff at Black Row Farm near Throckley, Tyne and Wear, were woken by the screams of the dying animals. They led 18 horses to safety from two other stable blocks, which had also been doused with petrol.

Yesterday owners and staff wept as fire fighters doused the charred remains of the stables with water.

Emma Wright, 17, laid a wreath of daisies and primroses where her seven-year-old black gelding Hardy perished.

She said: "I just cannot understand the mentality of anyone who would do something as sickeningly cruel as this to a defenceless animal. I loved that horse and he loved me."

Anyone who works with horses knows how dangerous fire can be — horses are terrified of it and with so much straw and bedding about it wouldn't take much to get it alight. Covering the place with petrol was evil.

Brenda Powell, a nurse whose mare, Janie, and seven-month-old foal, Kholie, died, said: "I spent 28 hours at Janie's side when she gave birth to the foal. I saw the place go up in flames and it's as if someone has taken away half of my life. I have been coming down here for six years, usually twice a day."

Whoever did this has killed a piece of me."

Michael Curtis, 39, the stable owner, said: "Whoever did this set out deliberately to kill the horses. Why should they do that?"

Dave Curran, a fire officer, said his men had had to comfort distressed owners, some of whom had had to beat out flames on the backs of panicked horses with their bare hands.

"There are a lot of broken-hearted girls who loved their horses and many of them were hysterical," he said.

Northumbria police said: "This appears to have been a terrible, motiveless attack." Investigators believe the arsonists poured petrol over the animals as well as the straw they stood on.

Mr Curtis, who started the stables a year ago and recently spent £15,000 expanding the premises, said: "Brothers Jimmy and Stephen Brown who live nearby spotted one horse on fire and managed to lead him out of the blazing barn and put out the flames using a blanket."

Stephen Brown suffered burns to his hands and was treated in hospital.

Firemen managed to prevent the flames spreading to two other blocks, despite the presence of more petrol on the ground.

Mr Curtis said: "I think the arsonists were disturbed otherwise even more horses could have perished."

Damage to the property is estimated at £15,000. Vets spent the weekend checking the horses and treating them as locals offered to rehouse homeless animals.

Councils join forces to evict borderline case

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO county councils plan joint legal action to evict an elderly man from a shanty town he has built, straddling their boundary.

Jimmy Rye, 63, lives alone in a collection of vans and cars which straddles the Avon and Somerset county line near Churchill. Locals on both sides have complained for years about his 11 dogs, which they claim "terrorise" walkers along a public footpath.

But every time officials from either Avon or Somerset confront him, Mr Rye simply sidles a few feet to the left or

the right — into a different county and out of trouble.

A Somerset County Council official said: "Jimmy has been running rings round the two councils for years. He always seems to know when someone is going up there to see him."

Mr Rye, who claims £63-a-week invalidity benefit, said yesterday: "They have tried to move me on stacks of times but so far I have managed to stay one jump ahead."

"I'm not doing any harm. I'll stay as long as I can until they catch me bang to rights. If it comes to it I'll go peacefully."



Maureen Taylor: has unearthed the borough's connection with Shakespeare

Hackney woos the romantic

By ANDREW PIERCE

HACKNEY, scene of the drama over a headmistress who banned a school trip to see *Romeo and Juliet*, is relaunching its image as a tourist attraction.

The inner London borough has employed a tourism director to sell the virtues of the area, which has one of the highest densities of tower blocks in Europe.

Maureen Taylor is confident that tourists will come in sufficient numbers to bring rich dividends for residents who pay one of the highest rates of council tax in the country. She said: "Hackney has many undiscovered delights. It offers the taste of the real city."

The local people can certainly testify to that. The crime rate is so high, car and household insurance premiums are among the most expensive in Britain.

But Ms Taylor has even managed to exploit the embarrassment over Jane Brown, the headmistress who barred children at Kingsmead school from accepting free tickets for the ballet

Romeo and Juliet. She has unearthed Hackney's trump card: according to the tourist guides being published, William Shakespeare was first employed as a playwright in Hackney.

Top of the list of Hackney's attractions is the 16th-century Sutton House, the only National Trust property in the inner city. The 18th-century Geoffrey Museum, which boasts domestic interiors from the 18th century to the 1960s, is also being marketed. Another highlight is the factory shop selling Burberry seconds, which is already attracting coachloads of Japanese and Italian tourists.

The Hackney Empire, home to alternative comedy, the house where the late Marc Bolan lived until he was 16, and the wide variety of cosmopolitan restaurants are also included in the guides.

Finally, the borough is being advertised as a place for romance. Ms Taylor said: "There are lovely walks and parks which make Hackney a romantic place to go to."

Thieves take rare books worth £1.2m

By JIM MCCUE

RARE books worth hundreds of thousands of pounds have been stolen from the London Library. Between 30 and 40 illustrated books up to 400 years old have disappeared from restricted areas, probably over several months.

Alan Bell, librarian of the famous lending-library in St James's Square, said that their value was "not less than £100,000". It is estimated, however, that they might cost more than £500,000 to replace. The news comes in the week that the library received planning permission for strongrooms for its rarest books.

The missing volumes, well-known to specialists, cover subjects from architecture to costumes and botany. All contain valuable plates. The variety suggests they were stolen for sale.

Police are investigating the theft, and details of the items have been circulated but it is unlikely that such conspicuous rarities could be sold in Britain. Several are about Italy or were published there, and print prices in Italy are especially high. The library has increased security.

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Families deserve more than inadequate compensation and sympathy, QC says

Lawyers rail at feared cuts in cash for crime victims

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to face a double onslaught in Parliament and possible legal action over its controversial proposals to introduce a tariff system for compensating victims of crime.

Lord Ackner, the retired law lord, is to lead a debate in the Lords on March 2 questioning the constitutional basis of the proposals and suggesting they flout the intentions of Parliament. If the Government proceeds with its proposals, there is a serious possibility that the basis for the new scheme will be challenged through the judicial review proceedings.

Lord Ackner said: "These proposals are being introduced on April 1 without having been brought before Parliament for its consideration."

The present scheme operated by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, in which awards are made by QCs on the basis of common law damages, was intended to be put on a statutory basis.

That was clearly the intention as expressed in the Criminal Justice Act of 1988. But instead of doing that, the Home Secretary now seems to be saying 'two fingers' to the scheme — nothing doing," Lord Ackner said.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have tabled an amendment to the Criminal Justice bill, now in its Commons committee stage, stating there should be no change to the present scheme without reference to Parliament.

There is widespread opposition to the proposals across the legal profession which maintains they will mean huge cuts in awards to crime victims. The Association of Personal Injuries Lawyers is at the head of a campaign against the proposals backed by the Law Society and others.

This week a letter will be sent to the Home Secretary

signed by five leading personal injury QCs and 25 other barristers from chambers at 15 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn. They say the changes having "nothing to do with fairness or justice to the blameless victims of crime" but are Treasury-driven.

The letter, headed by John Melville Williams QC, chairman of the Association of Personal Injuries Lawyers, says: "The proposals are an insult to the victims of crime. We think that the quadriplegic, who has lost a lifetime's earnings and has dependants, would not agree that all he or she needs from society is a 'tangible recognition'."

"Careers and working lives may be destroyed and families left penniless, but all the Government thinks society should be prepared to offer is an inadequate sum in compensation and its 'sympathy'."

One member of the compensation board, Martin Thomas QC, has resigned in protest, describing the new tariff — with awards payable regardless of individual needs or circumstances — as a "retreat from justice."

Instead of QCs, the new tariff will be operated by officials. Lord Ackner pointed out that the tariff would pay nothing for loss of earnings or medical care. "So an airline pilot who loses an eye will get just the same as an old age pensioner with the same injury and a life expectancy of six months. A girl of 14 who is gang-raped will get just the same as a prostitute who withdraws her consent because she and the client could not agree on the fee."

Lord Ackner, who is expected to be joined in his criticisms by Lord Carlisle QC, chairman of the compensation board, and Lord Alexander of Weexon QC, condemned the proposals as "completely unjust and ridiculous."

His claim could break new ground as the largest amount of compensation paid by the board. But it could also be one of the last of its kind. On April



Ross Jones and his father Peter, who fears for the future of his son should relatives become unable to give him the 24-hour care he needs

Boy's injury award may be last big payout

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Opponents of the Government's new compensation scheme believe it will make life even worse for some victims of crime

THE biggest award ever made for a victim of crime could be granted next month when a record claim of £1.3 million comes before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Ross Jones, 14, was left severely brain-damaged and in need of 24-hour care after being attacked as a toddler by his mother's boy friend. He cannot stand or walk unaided, can only speak odd words, has to be spoon fed and is doubly incontinent.

His claim could break new ground as the largest amount of compensation paid by the board. But it could also be one of the last of its kind. On April

1, under government proposals for scrapping the present scheme for criminal injuries compensation, the maximum award for an injury of the utmost severity will be reduced to £250,000.

Ross's solicitor, Neville Radcliffe, a partner with the Nottingham firm Browne Jacobson, said: "It makes me very angry when I hear Michael Howard saying that victims of crime will not suffer. It is completely untrue."

The claim, he said, was designed to ensure "Ross has

as reasonable a quality of life as he possibly can". The bulk of the sum was for future medical care, but under the new tariff, no allowance would be made for the cost of caring or for loss of earnings.

Ross was attacked when he was three. He was in intensive care for four days and almost died. The attacker was subsequently convicted of grievous bodily harm with intent.

Ross's father, Peter, who is divorced from the mother, said: "When something like that happens, everything else

pales into insignificance. It makes you realise how important your family are."

Ross, a happy child despite his severe disabilities, has been cared for with devotion by his father, older brothers and in particular his grandmother, Mabel Jones, 72. She moved in with the family 11 years ago but now suffers from severe arthritis. "It's a team effort," she said. "We all help. But I find it very difficult to lift Ross now."

Each morning he is bathed, nappy changed, dressed, fed and got ready for collection in his wheelchair to his special school. The family is finding it harder to cope and there is concern for the future.

Mr Jones, 48, an executive with IBM, said: "There's this

awful worry that one of these days I'm not going to be here, and who looks after Ross?"

Two of Ross's brothers are now at university. The third is at home doing A levels. "They all adore him but I can't expect them not to pursue their full potential just because their brother has suffered this fate," Mr Jones said.

The new compensation scheme taking effect in April will worsen the disadvantages already suffered by victims of crime compared with other accident victims. First, there is no legal aid. Second, awards to crime victims are one-off sums. Lawyers for Ross will seek to break new ground in being paid in instalments, as happens in accident awards.

New-look Radio 1 'alienating pop music listeners'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S leading rock music awards, the Brits, will be pre-empted tonight amid growing disquiet among fans about the fate of Radio 1.

Since Matthew Bannister took over as controller of the pop station last year, radically changing its schedule, the weekly audience has shrunk by one million listeners and there has been heavy criticism.

According to the pop music writer and broadcaster Jonathan King, Mr Bannister has alienated many listeners by making too many changes too quickly. Although he praises Mr Bannister's aim of introducing more new bands and live music, Mr King says: "The way to do it is to slip the odd new record in among the more acceptable chart hits, not to bombard people with new sounds." He also thinks there is too much talk and not enough music.

Other critics have been less tempered. Simon Bates, who left the station in October, says the new-look Radio 1 is "inexperienced and clumsy".

The problems come at a crucial time for the BBC, as the Government plans its future beyond the expiry of its charter in 1996. The corporation is caught between two imperatives: proving that it produces distinctive material that would not be made in the commercial sector, and attracting big enough audiences to justify continued public funding.

Mr Bannister said last night: "Before I arrived, Radio 1 was repeatedly criticised for having older DJs who were out of touch with current trends in music. The audience dropped by one million in the first half of 1993 before I arrived as a result of increasing competition."

There are signs that the changes so painful to pop music's old guard, are beginning to be appreciated. Steve Sutherland, editor of the *New Musical Express*, said: "The BBC has a duty to encourage new music and to exercise some sort of musical critique. That is exactly what the new disc jockeys are doing in the session shows."

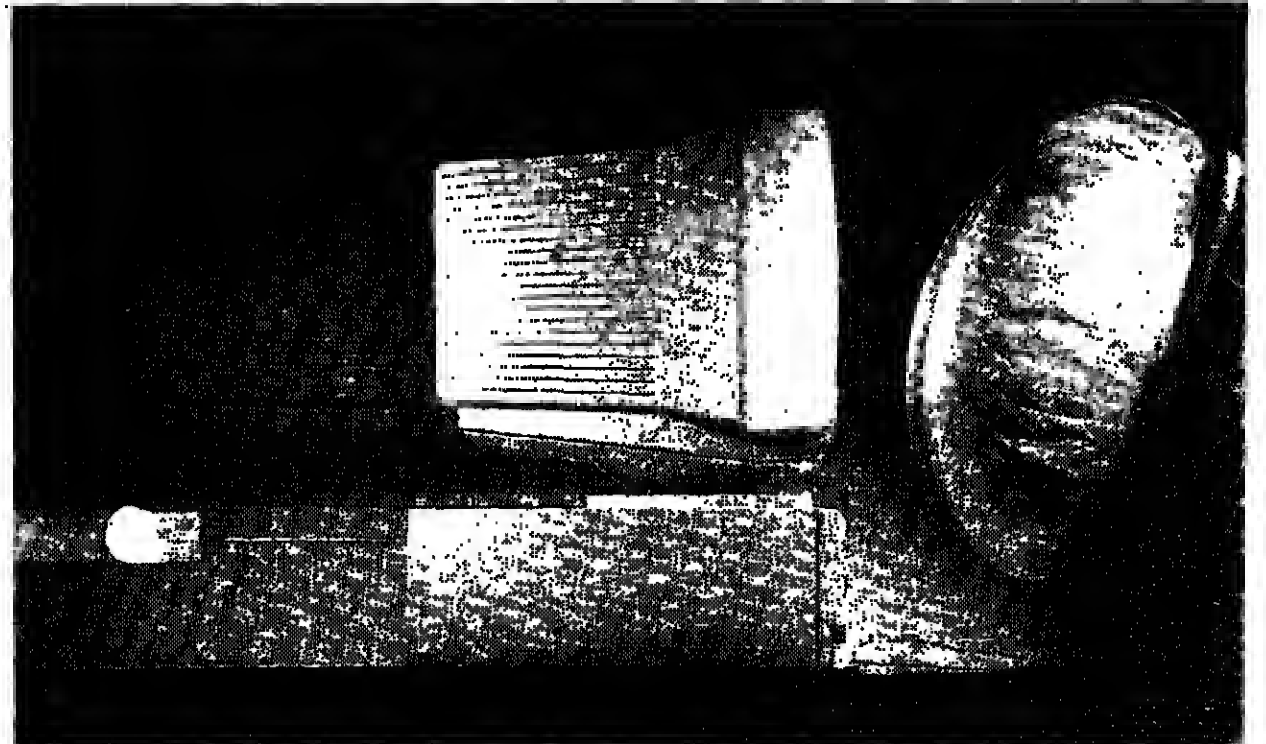


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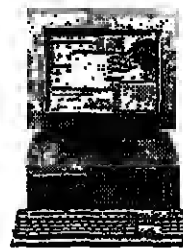
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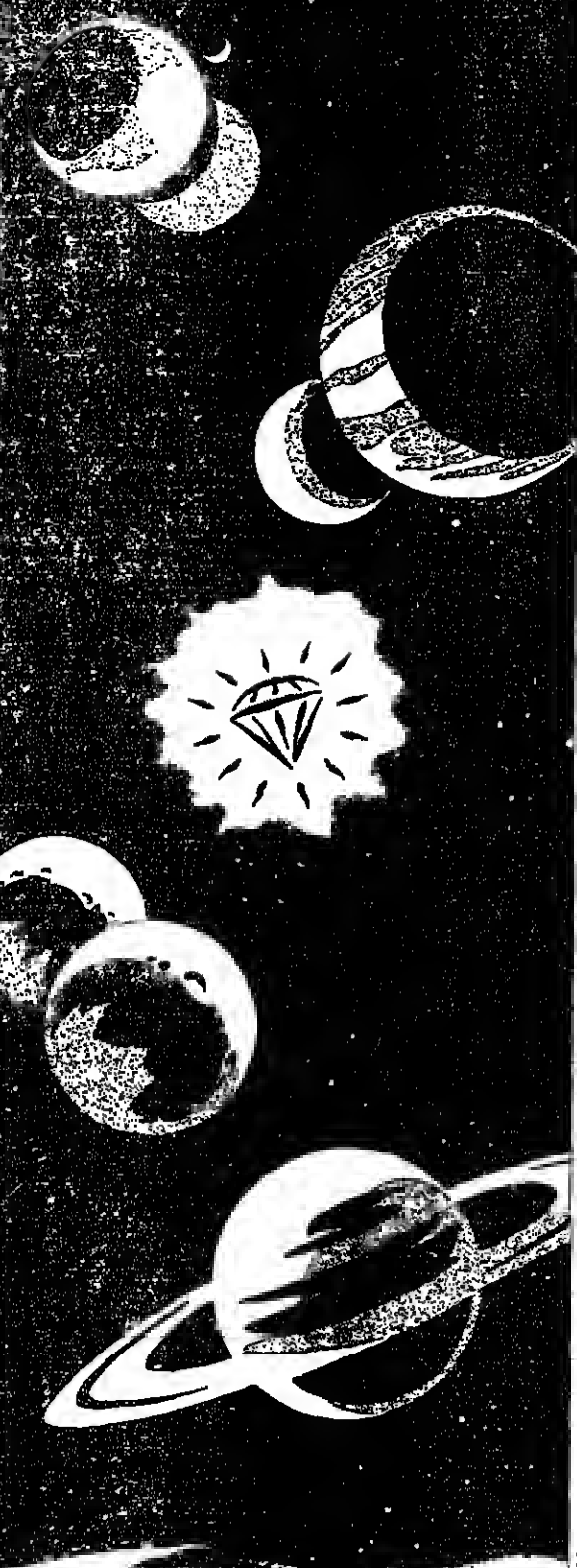
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Times investigation reveals insidious spread of inner city's deadly curse

Drug culture grips heart of England

By Staff Reporters

THE illicit drugs culture, once the preserve of Britain's inner cities, has extended its influence. The country cousins of streetwise metropolitan youths are experimenting with cannabis, Ecstasy, LSD and amphetamines.

In the market towns and cathedral cities of England's shires, an underground distribution network has evolved which makes most substances available.

Michael Levi, professor of criminology at the University of Wales in Cardiff, said that recognition of drug offending was "quite low" in the countryside, because statistics depended on the amount of police activity. "It is invisible, because drugs squads aren't so likely to operate in rural areas," he said.

One of the few studies took place in East Sussex, where 2,047 schoolchildren were questioned last year at a cost of £16,000. The Home Office paid most of the bill. Researchers discovered that a fifth of all pupils aged 14 and 15 had tried an illicit drug. The proportion was broadly the same in rural and urban areas. Boys were more involved than girls.

"It is prevalent, it is accessible. Anybody can get it if they want to," Rosalind Turner, who worked on the study with East Sussex Drugs Advisory Council, said. Children were arranging deliveries of drugs to their villages from telephone booths, "almost like dialling a pizza," she said.

Magic mushrooms and veterinary tranquillisers are more commonly abused in the countryside, according to the addiction charity Release. Cannabis has become as common in rural villages as in the inner cities, and while cocaine's popularity is spreading, crack is only occasionally brought to the countryside. East Anglia has a problem of amphetamine abuse.

Particular health problems arise from the abuse of drugs in the shires. Addicts may have to travel long distances for advice, or to receive regular supplies of methadone. Those who inject drugs live long distances from the nearest exchange point supplying clean needles, vital to prevent the spread of HIV.

The highest rate of drug seizures in Britain according to latest figures, (for 1992) is in Greater London (2,849 per million population). In England, the other highest counties are Merseyside (1,962), Wiltshire (1,621) and Gloucestershire (1,428). Scotland has a high rate of drug seizures, particularly in Strathclyde (1,966), Central (1,640), Lothian and Borders (1,586), and Tayside (1,576). In Wales, Dyfed-Powys has the highest rate of drug hauls (1,646).

The Times visited three of England's ancient shires, Lincolnshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, to discover how widespread drug use has become.



Tony Square, landlord of The Falstaff in Lincoln, says: "I won't allow it in the pub if I see it. The trouble is we can't spot it unless we smell it"

Cheap thrills in land of Tennyson's boyhood

By Emma Wilkins

THE sprawling agricultural county which inspired George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss* is experiencing such an explosion of drug abuse that police believe there is no street or hamlet in Lincolnshire where young people gather without its own drug scene.

Teenagers who once supplemented their incomes by picking the county's staple crops of cabbages, potatoes and sprouts, are more likely to be found spending money on cannabis, LSD or speed.

In 1984, Lincolnshire had the lowest rate of drug hauls in Britain, at 70 seizures per million population. In the latest year for which Home Office statistics are available, 1992, there were 656 seizures per million, exceeding the figure for the West Midlands.

Last month, the county's education department found it necessary to employ an assistant teacher to prepare anti-drug messages for primary school children, at a cost of almost £30,000, as most intelligence confirms that the habit is growing fastest among this group.

Det Insp Martyn Harrison of Lincolnshire police said: "With youngsters, a lot of the answer is experimentation. A

lot of them are curious. They don't have to go very far to try to find it. It is in their own peer group. When people think about drugs, they think about inner cities and people dealing in the basements of tower blocks. We don't have any tower blocks but there is no part of Lincolnshire that doesn't have a drug problem."

The bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, said: "A lot of people have got a slightly idealised picture of rural life, but Lincolnshire is quite a hard, deprived and isolated place. That makes it vulnerable to this problem and drug abuse is certainly an area of concern."

The bishop has noticed the regular gatherings of young people on the hill below the cathedral on Friday and Saturday nights. "It all looks fairly normal, but I'm not stupid enough to think that it is entirely innocent."

The Times visited The Falstaff, a pub in the shadow of Lincoln cathedral, one Friday night. In the disco area, Jamaican rhythms pumped

through the sound system. One man admitted that he'd been busted by the drug squad and a group of youths in their mid-20s smoked joints. Silver paper, often used in the abuse of drugs ranging from cannabis to cocaine and heroin, lay crumpled under the tables.

Tony Square, 38, the landlord, said: "I won't allow it in the pub if I see it. A lot of sneaky things go on. I go to the toilet and find root ends which makes me cross, but I put my foot down. The trouble is we can't spot it unless we smell it."

"I caught somebody in the car park a long time ago with a syringe in his arm. That was it. He was banned for life. The only thing I have got against cannabis is that it is illegal. The police know that they smoke it in the car park."

Asked whether people had bought drugs on his premises, he said: "I would think it is quite possible that they have. I'm going to really go to town."

A wrap of "whizz", the street name for amphetamine sulphate, which cost £15 three years ago, is available for £10.

Young people in Lincoln readily give you the address of a house where strangers call to buy cannabis.

In Louth, where the poet Tennyson was schooled, *The Times* arranged to buy LSD within minutes. After approaching a group of fresh-faced boys we asked for some tablets. The group had only Ecstasy on them, but said we could come back later for some "trips".

Crack has been seized in Skegness and Lincoln, Boston is the white capital of Lincolnshire. Abusers of amphetamine sulphate start by snorting, but often end up injecting, with all the risks of HIV infection from sharing needles.

Dean Riches, 26, a former drug user who dispenses advice, condoms and clean needles on behalf of South Lincolnshire health authority, said: "Whizz is everywhere now. There are girls of 14 and 15 using it in the town because they think it will help them lose weight. Speed gives you energy and takes all the realities away. It means you can play your Nintendo games for hours on end and not get tired."

Children as young as 13 are on LSD in Boston and one ten-year-old girl, a solvent abuser,

has visited Mr Riches. "The cities are flooding through the villages now. We never had so much cocaine and smack round here before, but the dealers are bringing it out from Peterborough and local people are going there to buy it."

Market Rasen is said to be a "hotbed" of cannabis-smoking and the seaside resort of Mablethorpe has its own drug problem. The rural settlements of Caistor, Tetney, Holton le Clay and Binbrook in north Lincolnshire have all produced patients for their local addiction unit.

David Harding, Price, a clinical nurse specialising in drug misuse, said youngsters are experimenting with valium and the depressant drug temazepam — both inexpensive ways of feeling drunk.

Nick Pyrgos, 51, sees many victims of drug abuse in his role as accident and emergency consultant for the county hospital. The "peak" ages of his patients are 15 and 16. Mr Pyrgos now believes cannabis, and possibly other drugs, should be legalised.

He said: "If you look at the resources committed by everybody in chasing those who use the softer drugs, I wonder whether it is a good investment."

GLOSSARY

■ Cannabis (blow, dope, pot, grass): Induces feelings of elation. Linked to organic brain damage. Costs £15 per sixteenth-ounce.

■ Amphetamine sulphate (whizz, Billy, speed): euphoria, talkativeness. Risks: psychological dependence, contamination from shared needles. £10 per sixteenth-ounce "wrap".

■ LSD (trips): hallucinations, panic or violence during a bad trip. Illusion that one can fly. £2-£4 per tablet.

■ Ecstasy (E, doves): euphoria, desire to be tactile. Toxic side effects, dehydration. £10-£20 per tablet.

■ Temazepam (eggs): light-headedness, release of inhibitions. Feelings of confusion or aggression. £1-£5 per tablet.

■ Heroin (smack, H, Harry, smoke, scag): euphoria, loss of anxiety. Overdosing, addiction, contaminated dose. £15 for a sixteenth-ounce.

■ Cocaine (coke): exhilaration, euphoria. Paranoia, delusions, psychological dependence. £40-£80 per gramme.

■ Crack (rocks): extreme euphoria. High risk of quick dependence, feelings of distress. From £10-£25 per rock.

■ Solvents: often household goods. Induce intoxication, hallucination. Risks: accidental death, heart attack.

Research: *The Times/Release*

Village youngsters join the queue for kicks

By Dominic Kennedy

AT nightfall in the Cotswolds village of Moreton-in-Marsh, young males gather in the bus shelter to smoke, exchange gossip and wait.

They could be sitting on the narrow wooden benches for hours until a car draws up, driven by an older boy who will take one of the group to the outskirts of the village to hand over a supply of LSD, speed or cannabis. The driver will then take his companion back to the bus shelter, where the drugs are distributed among the group. They wait because none is old enough to hold even a provisional driving licence — they are aged between 14 and 16.

The village bandstand is used as an evening meeting place for youngsters smoking cannabis. The pubs have managed to escape any drug problem: the children are too young to go inside.

This is Gloucestershire, which, along with its neighbour Wiltshire, has the highest rate of drug seizures in England outside Greater London and Merseyside. In

the mid-1970s, the academic Martin Plant chose Cheltenham to study drug takers. He discovered a well-organised network of dealers supplying abusers among two communities: bohemian students and hardened criminals. Heroin and cannabis was available.

Today, the network of soft drugs has rolled over the hills into villages on the tourist trail such as Snow-on-the-Wold, where teenagers smoke cannabis in the churchyard or in friends' cars.

Earlier this year, a local youth was arrested allegedly offering LSD and speed (amphetamine sulphate) near Chipping Campden's comprehensive school and outside the youth club.

"The age of the children who were taking this stuff really surprised us. We are looking at children as young as 13 taking LSD," said Sergeant Mike Bundy, who works at drug enforcement in the Cotswolds. He is certain that the availability of drugs in the countryside has contributed to the 17 per cent increase

in rural crime in the county last year — compared with a 1 per cent fall in urban areas such as Gloucester.

Sergeant Bundy estimates that 80 per cent of the drugs in the area are originally supplied by new-age travellers, whose encampments are frequently visited by youths.

Cheltenham, though, is the hub of trade. In the elegant town centre, a tattooed man assured *The Times* that he would be able to acquire a wrap of speed easily.

Dr Jeffrey Marks, consultant psychiatrist at Cheltenham General Hospital's drugs rehabilitation unit, is one of half a dozen doctors in Britain to prescribe heroin and amphetamines as treatment on the NHS.

"When you mention Cheltenham, you think of retired colonels in bath chairs, the Ladies' College and the races — you don't think of class A drugs," he said. "People of my generation find it hard to believe that drugs are so common nowadays among the young."



Youths share the smoke from a cannabis cigarette

Tough cannabis fines 'are not the answer'

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

POLICE and magistrates' leaders yesterday attacked Michael Howard's plan to increase the maximum fine for possession of cannabis and other soft drugs fivefold to £2,500.

The Home Secretary was accused of failing to think through the implications and lawyers and the Police Federation warned him that it would result in more unpaid fines, leading to more people in jail.

Rosemary Thomson, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said that Mr Howard was playing "de-

clamatory politics" with the criminal justice system. "The fact of the matter for sentencers, who deal with reality, is that few cases of possession reach the magistrates' courts. Police officers seem to be cautioning or doing nothing about possession for personal use."

The police are privately angry that they have not been consulted on yet another issue with far-reaching consequences for police work. One source said: "This will not help the police on the beat."

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police branch of the Police Federation, said that announce-

ing an increase in the fine would not make the problem go away. Many people would be unable to afford the extra penalty.

Richard Covles, chairman of the Police Federation, said that increasing the maximum fine to £2,500 would have no effect as magistrates rarely implemented the present maximum fine of £500. "We know there is a link between crime and drugs," he said. "Fines at this level will mean more people committing crime to pay them."

Mr Howard's plan to increase the maximum fine for the first time since 1977 is intended to signal to the public

that the courts will treat drug taking seriously. The onslaught from police and magistrates' leaders, however, has clearly taken the Home Secretary by surprise.

Last night the Home Office insisted that no decision had been taken on whether to increase the maximum fine. A spokesman said Mr Howard was still considering whether to table an amendment to increase the maximum fine.

His plan comes despite pressure from drug agencies and some senior police officers for the Government to consider decriminalising possession of cannabis.

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Beneficent Branson may cheat big names of lottery windfall

By COLIN NARBROUGH

TODAY is the last day for bids to be submitted to run the national lottery which, with a turnover of £4 billion a year, will become one of the country's biggest businesses.

At least eight groups have said they will present formal tenders to operate the lottery. The appearance of a non-profit making bidder has brought to the forefront the question of just how much charities will benefit from each bidder's plans.

The winner is expected to be announced in May. Whoever wins the licence is expected to distribute half of the take from lottery ticket sales in prize money, creating one millionaire a week. From the

remaining proceeds, 12 per cent is to go in tax, and 23 per cent to the arts, heritage, sport, charities and the Millennium Fund. The licence holder will be left with a maximum of 15 per cent to cover costs and profit. City analysts predict up to £120 million.

The bid from Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin group, and Lord Young of Grafton, chairman of Cable & Wireless and Margaret Thatcher's former Trade Secretary, differs from the commercial bids in that it proposes to put the operator's profit back into the charity pool. Companies such as Marks & Spencer, which had previously shunned any part in selling lottery tickets, are now

saying that they would back an entirely charitable bid, adding to the political attraction of the Branson plan.

Although Mr Davis, a former non-executive chairman of Abbey National, is obliged to choose the operator strictly on its ability to deliver the best-run lottery, some city analysts believe that John Major's Government is under pressure to favour bidders offering most for good causes. However, the commercial bidders will claim that they can increase the size of the total take and will therefore deliver the most to charity. If more commercial operators are prepared to join for charity than for profit, that argument could yet be

disproved. These are the known contenders:

Camelot: a consortium made up of Cadbury Schweppes, the food and beverages empire De La Rue, the bank ome and security printers ICL, the computer group Rascal, the network management company, and G-Tech, the American company that is the world's leading supplier of lottery systems. Games for Good Causes: comprises Ladbrokes, the bookmaker, and M&L, the financial services and media group. It is run by Malcolm Hughes, former managing director of Versus Pools, and promises to create jobs in the north of England.

It is widely considered to be one of the favourites, the consortium brings together the media muscle of Granada, Carlton Communications and Associated Newspapers with Vodafone, the cellular phone company, and the financial strength of Hambros Bank. The TV companies envisage a Saturday night "millionaire" programme. NM Rothschild & Tanners: a venture marrying the expertise of the Tasmanian Tattersalls group, involved in lotteries since 1881, with the blue-chip bank. Rainbow: an alliance, headed by Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT Industries, in harness with Leo Burnett, the advertising agen-

cy. It effectively quit the main race last week by announcing that it wants only the scratch card part of the lottery business.

Rank: could be among the favourites with its bought-in expertise, which includes Automated Wagering International, the American rival of Camelot's G-Tech.

GEC/Tote/Thorn EMI: a secretive group comprising specialist betting and corporate strengths.

UK Lottery Foundation: the Branson/Young team backed by the technology of IBM, big high-street retailers, churches and charities is the greatest headache for the commercial bidders.

M&S rethink, page 44

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hunger striker ends fast

Hunger striker John Liles has ended his fast after spending nearly 50 days without food. His wife Doreen, of Newport, Gwent, said he was eating one meal a day, and taking tablets for a heart condition.

Liles, 42, is serving a five-year sentence at Dartmoor prison for grievous bodily harm with intent on a man who cannot be named for legal reasons. The man went into a coma after the attack on March 19 last year, and has not regained consciousness. Liles has pleaded his innocence.

Fire death

One man died and another was seriously injured in a fire in a flat at Pimlico, west London. Terry Hughes, 49, the survivor, who lived at the flat, has been charged with being drunk and disorderly.

Shot boy dies

Danny Sondergaard, 14, of Rainham, Kent, who was left with a lead pellet in his brain after playing with an air rifle, has died.

Driver stabbed

Alan Cox, 60, of Bristol, was stabbed by a man who opened his car door and lunged at him with a knife. A 20-year-old Bristol man has been arrested.

Body found

The body of Jacqueline Webb, 43, missing for nearly a month after a family dispute, has been found in a wood at Sherfield English, Hampshire.

Love me, fender

Elvis Presley's monogrammed gold Cadillac has been bought by the Cars of the Stars museum in Keswick, Cumbria.

Bird of prey

Firemen answered a 999 call in Moxborough, South Yorkshire, to rescue a bird in a tree — a kestrel caught by its jess.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings premium bond draw are: £100,000, bond number 161, 81593, location of winner Channel Islands; value of holding £5,888; £50,000, 485 03011, Kent (£22,250,000, 12111 05600, Merseyside, £5,100).

Time for action to safeguard Britain's ancient liberties

Britain's unwritten constitution has been admired for its flexibility, adaptability and capacity to survive centuries of industrial change, wars, social upheavals and a widening suffrage. Our constitution is not a simple unitary structure. While there is no formal separation of powers, as in the United States Constitution, there are checks and balances meant to restrain the excessive or arbitrary use of executive powers. The most significant of these has been the alternation of government between the parties.

This alternation underpins a second restraint on the government of the day: the commitment of the civil service to give disinterested advice. Civil servants cannot be wholly unaware of their career prospects. If one party regularly replaces another, as in the period between 1959 and 1979, civil servants must be able to demonstrate their loyalty to either. That, in turn, reinforces the idea that public service is more than loyalty to a particular party.

Elected local government, from the 1880s on, acted not only as a check on central government. More important, it offered Opposition parties an outlet for their ideas and energies and an opportunity to learn how to govern. That wise observer of democracy Alexis de Tocqueville wrote at the time of the French Revolution: "The strength of free peoples resides in the local community, and without local institutions a nation may give itself free government, but it has not got the spirit of liberty."

Most local councils in Brit-

A Bill of Rights and strong local government are needed if democracy is to be preserved, Shirley Williams writes

The Times Essay

ain have acted responsibly and honourably. Requirements for auditing their finances, holding open meetings and explaining what they are doing, have kept local government accountable to its electors.

Unfortunately the actions of a handful of foolish councils led, in the 1980s, to a sustained campaign by central government against local government. Most of its responsibilities — from further education and health to water and schools — have been or are being stripped away.

That leaves the legislature and the judiciary. Commentators on our constitutional practice have made much of the sovereignty of Parliament, the core of British democracy. It is to Parliament, the representatives of the people, that ministers are accountable. But it is important to address the reality behind the ideal. The reality is that the same party dominates both executive and Parliament. MPs long ago traded their independent voices for their preferment, patronage

and position. Only a brave handful have stood out against these pressures. Once a bill is published, however ill-drafted or badly thought out, there is an inevitability about its passage to the statute book.

Once in a while a bill so outrages opinion that it has to be modified. Examples are the draconian powers taken by the Home Secretary in the police and magistrates' courts bill, described by Viscount White-law on its second reading in the Lords as "a very dangerous move indeed".

Unhindered by Parliament, the executive has steadily tightened its grip. Consultation with those affected by legislation is short and superficial. Whole functions and services, once the purview of elected local government, have been put under the control of quangos to which some 10,000 appointments are made every year.

That would matter less if ministerial accountability actually worked. Even the most conscientious minister is aware of only a tiny part of the work of his or her department. We have been told that John Major did not know about the changed criteria for trade in machine tools with Iraq.

Accountability for the work of quangos is a murky area. In many cases the names of board members are not even published. Some board members are well paid for the job they do, which makes it the more outrageous that they are not accessible to the public they are meant to serve. Not all quangos are subject to audit, the strongest safeguard for the proper use of public money. Many keep the public out of their meetings.

It is not surprising that some quangos have misused public money. In its eighth report, *The Proper Conduct of Public Business*, the all-party House of Commons public accounts committee draws attention to cases of misused or wasted public money. "These failings," the committee says, "represent a departure from the standards of public co-

duct which have mainly been established during the past 140 years."

The sums wasted or misused are not small. Wessex Regional Health Authority wasted £20 million, West Midlands Regional Health Authority £10 million, the National Rivers Authority £1 million. As disturbing is the evidence of dubious practices including golden handshakes for incompetent officials or keeping contracts within a narrow circle.

One other dimension of the growth in executive power is the burgeoning of secondary legislation. More of the legislation brought before Parliament now is framework, to be filled in by a host of statutory instruments or orders. Parliamentary control over secondary legislation is exiguous.

It is difficult to get time to debate secondary legislation at any depth. The last time the Lords challenged a statutory instrument by a direct vote was in 1982. Yet statutory instruments deal with some of the most sensitive issues of all.

The newest incursion on Parliament's prerogative to pass or repeal primary legislation is Michael Heseltine's deregulation or contracting-out bill. For the first time, if the bill is passed, ministers will have the power to amend or repeal primary legislation

over a vast range "for the purpose of reducing or removing a burden".

Removing unnecessary and burdensome regulations is to be applauded, but doing so by sweeping away Parliament's fundamental right to amend or repeal primary legislation is dangerous. It establishes a terrifying precedent. Some of the areas Mr Heseltine proposes to deregulate are highly contentious: undertakings by firms instead of references to the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission; the exemption of certain restrictive trade agreements from the existing law; greater secrecy to cover commercially sensitive information; and the loosening of controls over residential care and nursing homes.

British democracy is not guaranteed by any Bill of Rights or written constitution. It depends on the self-restraint of ministers and the even-handedness of civil servants. After 15 years of government by one party, polarisation

between the parties and the rejection of consensus even in areas where stability of policy is essential, it would be foolhardy to rely on either.

We depend on the free media and the judges to guard our ancient liberties, though sadly the press shows little interest nowadays in parliamentary debates. Constitutional reform — a Bill of Rights, laws ensuring freedom of information and strong regional and local government — is long overdue.



Shirley Williams, who in 1981 co-founded the SDP and became its first MP: executive "unhindered by Parliament"

THE TIMES

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KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Indian upset

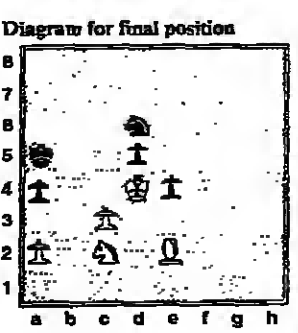
Indian amateur Gokhale defeated grandmaster David Norwood early in the Goodricke in Calcutta.

White: Gokhale

Black: Norwood

Modern Defence

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 1 d4 | g6 |
| 2 e4 | d6 |
| 3 Nc3 | c6 |
| 4 Bg3 | Bg7 |
| 5 Qd2 | Nd7 |
| 6 0-0-0 | b5 |
| 7 Bc3 | Nb6 |
| 8 h4 | N5 |
| 9 Nf3 | N16 |
| 10 f3 | Bb3 |
| 11 Rb3 | e6 |
| 12 Qe2 | b4 |
| 13 Nd1 | Nd7 |
| 14 Ne2 | c5 |
| 15 Nb3 | 0-0 |
| 16 a5 | cxd4 |
| 17 Bg5 | Qc7 |
| 18 g4 | Nb5 |
| 19 h5 | Nd5 |
| 20 h6 | Rac8 |
| 21 Kd1 | h6 |
| 22 h6 | h6 |
| 23 Bb6 | Rb6 |
| 24 Nc4 | Qc6 |
| 25 Bc4 | Rb6 |
| 26 Bb6 | Nc7 |
| 27 Qe1 | Qe6 |
| 28 Bb6 | Bb6 |
| 29 Rb6 | Kg7 |
| 30 Qh4 | N7 |
| 31 Rb7+ | Kg8 |
| 32 Rb1 | N6 |



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Wedded stars make the cameraman blush as they bare all in a new film and hope everybody likes it hot

Hollywood hype adds sizzling raunch to family values

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

FILM stars Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin bared body and soul to American filmgoers at the weekend, exploiting their real life marriage to allay public doubts about sex on the screen.

In their much-hyped remake of *The Getaway*, Basinger and Baldwin perform some of the most explicit sex scenes served up by Hollywood since Basinger herself undressed for Mickey Rourke in *9½ Weeks*. But in a clear sign of how sexual mores have changed since then, the fact that the stars of *The Getaway* are married in real life is, for many cinemagoers, the only thing that makes its high raunch factor acceptable.

"I felt comfortable because they were married. If not, it would have been too much," said Debra St Lawrence, as she left a first-night screening. "It was hot, almost too hot," said another woman. Men tended to view Basinger's naked silhouette more willingly. "Did it go too far? I don't know what too far is," said Ms St Lawrence's boy friend, Steve. "It was certainly striking to see Kim Basinger like that."



Kim Basinger and husband Alec Baldwin star in a remake of *The Getaway* with extra erotic touches. A box-office hit would help pay damages Basinger incurred after refusing *Boxing Helena*

The American film industry faces the threat of legislation to curb sex and violence in its output if it fails to control them itself. In this climate, Basinger and Baldwin have become the leading ambassadors of "hot monogamy" — an Aids-era formula that studios hope will be seen as portraying safe sex and bolstering the

"family values" to which Americans perennially aspire, without denting box-office receipts.

Tamer films which fall into the same category include *Far and Away* (Tom Cruise and his wife, Nicole Kidman), *Bugsy* (Warren Beatty and Annette Bening) and last year's *Flesh and Bone*, with the then newly-weds Dennis



Quaid and Meg Ryan. Beatty and Bening are set to continue the trend with *Love Affair* later this year. In *The Getaway*, Basinger and Baldwin were ready to give the American public all the heat it could take. The uncut version was reported to have had test audiences squirming and the cameraman not knowing where to look.

"We did a lot of pretty heavy stuff," Baldwin said in a television interview. "The steadicam operator would be going up and down our bodies, panning in and going back. When they cut, he would put the camera down, and lean against the wall and go 'Oh, my God.' He was so embarrassed."

Baldwin has described the scenes with his wife as "insanely erotic". One reason for his tabloid-friendly candour may be an urgent personal need for the film to make money. As Basinger's husband, the \$7.4 million (\$5 million) damages against her in the *Boxing Helena* trial last year are his problems, too.

Basinger was sued by a production company for allegedly breaking an agreement to star in Jennifer Lynch's film about a woman whose arms and legs are cut off by a doctor who is obsessed with her. That film bombed. Basinger will be hoping this one can get her out of a hot spot. If love scenes in *The Getaway* make it a hit, it will be thanks to Basinger, Baldwin and director Roger Donaldson. In the novel on which it is based, and the original film with Steve McQueen and Ali MacGraw, the hero is impotent.



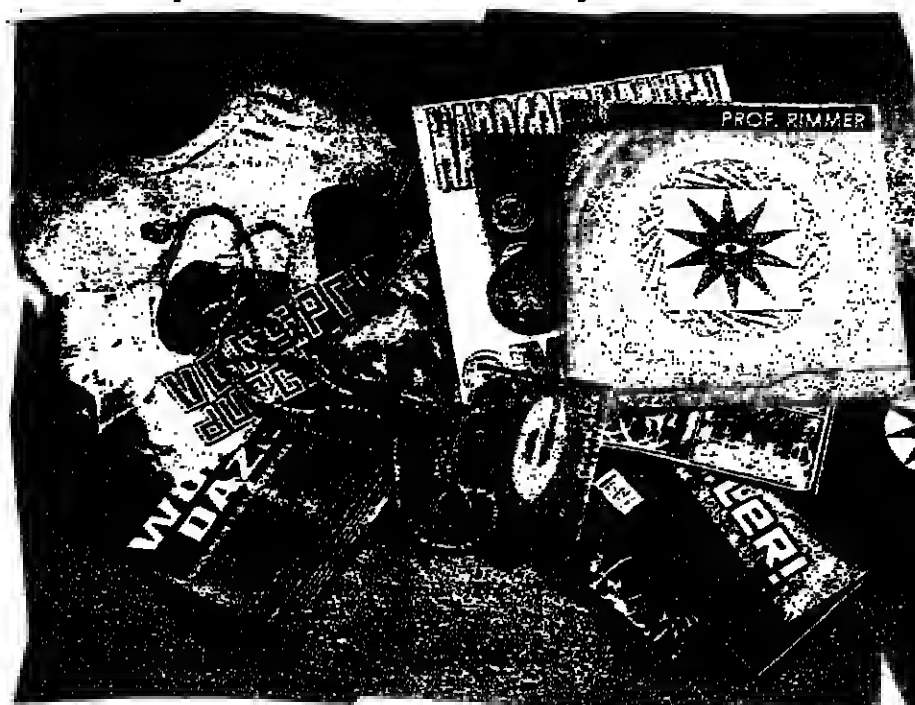
In a safe-sex formula, films often match married couples in top roles, like Warren Beatty and Annette Bening in *Bugsy*

If more parents took an interest in drugs, fewer children would.

Has it ever crossed your mind that your child might take drugs?

Or do you merely dismiss drugs as a problem that will only ever happen to other people's children?

In fact your child will almost certainly come into contact with



drugs, regardless of background, education or upbringing.

So even if you can't stop your child taking an interest in drugs, how can you stop him or her actually taking drugs?

Don't start by using threats. As a parent you may fear drugs and everything to do with them, and it's tempting to pass that fear on.

But this won't help either of you.

Teenagers tend to experiment with the things that frighten them. And as you'll probably remember from your own childhood, activities which are forbidden seem that much more attractive.

Listen to what your child has to say.

Encourage your child to explain their views. Only when you understand what your child thinks about drugs can you start to influence them. You might find your child wants nothing to do with drugs. In which case you'll feel happier having cleared the air. (But be

careful not to assume that talking about drugs once, is enough).

You might find that they see it as something glamorous and exciting; something that their favourite film stars, rock stars, sports stars and TV personalities do.

Or that what they read in magazines, what they watch on television and in the cinema, make it much more interesting.

All these things in the media make a parent's job so much harder.

But don't despair. At least now you've an idea of what to expect, so make sure what you've got to say about drugs makes sense.

Talk first about why they'd want to take them. Then explain why they shouldn't take them.

Above all, listen, then put forward your thoughts.

Be careful not to come across as "Do as I say not as I do". A lot of parents do like a drink or a cigarette, so remember your child may question your actions.

And remember you can be your child's most reliable source of information about drugs.

If you are in doubt, or need to know more about the subject, there is a leaflet available.

For a free copy of 'Drugs & Solvents— you & your child', use the coupon below. (It's also available at libraries, doctors' surgeries, or by calling free on 0800 555 777.)

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Assault suspect wins ticket to Olympic ice duel

FROM KATE MUIR IN NEW YORK

THE undignified frenzy surrounding the attempt of Tonya Harding, the figure skater, to compete in the Winter Olympics is over — for at least a few days. The United States Olympic Committee resigned itself early yesterday to allowing her to skate in the Lillehammer Games as the dispute threatened to upstage other competitions.

Lawyers for the committee and Harding spent seven hours hatching a deal on Saturday, in which the skater agreed to drop her \$25 million (£6.6 million) lawsuit against the committee.

While it is retaining the authority to discipline Harding, it said: "For the moment, that matter is stilled." The committee noted in its statement that there had not only been an assault on Nancy Kerrigan, her rival, but "an assault on the basic ideals of the Olympic movement".

Harding remains a suspect in the criminal investigation of the assault last month on Kerrigan. Jeff Gillooly, Harding's former husband, in return for a reduced sentence, has implicated his wife in the conspiracy to club Kerrigan on the knee.

Harding has admitted that she had withheld information about the attack, while innocent people were being interrogated.

There have been public calls for Harding, 24, to resign her place in the team, but she has treated these with the same stubbornness and street-fighting style that have been the hallmarks of her career.

Waiting in her home state of Oregon at the weekend, she refused to undersell herself. "I can finally prove to the world I can win a gold medal," she

said. When Kerrigan appeared at a press conference in Lillehammer on Saturday, 1,500 reporters turned up, almost as many as those covering the reindeer in Norwegian costume who appeared at the opening ceremony. She attempted to point out to "you guys" that there were plenty of great athletes and great stories beyond the drama in her own rink, and suggested they watch the Games rather than her morning practice sessions.

The journalists were only interested in the new possibility of a clash of the tians if the two women start practicing together when Harding arrives in Norway on Wednesday. They were interested in Kerrigan's feelings about Harding's announcement that she would like to hug her rival. "I don't know how I'm going to feel when I see her," Kerrigan said. "That's personal."

Winter Games, pages 23, 25



Harding: agreed to withdraw \$25m suit

Japan backs firm stance on trade

FROM ROBERT STERN IN TOKYO

AT A 1992 summit Bill Clinton gave Boris Yeltsin some friendly advice about negotiating with the Japanese. He allegedly said that the Japanese always say "yes" when they mean "no". After the resounding "no" that Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, gave to American demands designed to reduce Japan's \$60 billion (£41 billion) trade surplus with America, Mr Clinton may be revising that assessment.

Mr Hosokawa's refusal, despite intense American pressure, has met with broad support at home. Any national pride in Mr Hosokawa's stance, however, is tempered by deep concern that the negotiating impasse may provoke a trade war at a time of severe recession.

Japanese economists, politicians and businessmen have voiced almost universal support for Mr Hosokawa's rejection of the Clinton Administration's proposals that numerical targets be used to measure the openness of Japan's markets. Yohei Kono, the opposition Liberal Democratic Party president, said on Saturday: "To accept such targets would mean abandon-

ing the principle of free trade and would go against the drive for deregulation."

Newspaper editorials and television analysts are making much of the "new era of US-Japan relations" marked by the Washington summit, where Mr Hosokawa claimed Japan's newfound frankness signalled that the two countries had entered "a relationship as adults".

Hiroshi Kumagai, the Trade and Industry Minister, echoed this sentiment in Tokyo. "Japan and the US have entered a stage to create a relationship where one side is no longer subordinate to the other."

The worry for the Japanese is what comes next. Mr Kumagai hoped that the Washington summit marked "a comma, not a full stop" in trade negotiations, but few believe the two countries can narrow their differences soon.

Most Japanese businessmen are hatching themselves for a barrage of unilateral measures that America may take. On Friday, Mr Clinton mentioned exchange rates as a possible means, and the dollar promptly fell to an almost three-month low.

If you don't talk to your child about drugs, someone else will.

Britain woos Russia as Nato momentum builds for bombing raids on artillery around Sarajevo

Major will give Yeltsin assurance on West's role

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR,
AND ANNE MCILVOY IN MOSCOW

JOHN Major will assure President Yeltsin tomorrow that the West has no intention of becoming embroiled in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Prime Minister and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, fly to Moscow today hoping to persuade Mr Yeltsin that Nato's decision last week to threaten air strikes against the Serbs was justified.

On a three-day trip designed to bolster Russia's flagging reform efforts, Mr Major and Mr Hurd will be anxious to keep Mr Yeltsin on side, after Russia's acceptance at the weekend that air strikes could have a value "as a last resort" to protect UN troops stationed around Sarajevo.

Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, said that Nato could carry out strikes after consultation with the UN Security Council, and implied that Russia would not use its veto. He added: "If UN forces call for air strikes and the Secretary-General takes the decision in consultation with the Security Council, that is something which we consider conceivable and possible — although not welcome."

The Security Council meets today at Moscow's instigation to discuss Nato's threat to use air power if forces around the Bosnian capital do not pull back their heavy artillery.

With Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the extreme nationalist leader, determined to embarrass the Russian government over its stance on Bosnia — yesterday he threatened to send volunteers to kill Muslims in Bosnia if Nato launched air strikes — Mr Major and Mr Hurd are aware of the sensitivity of their mission. Russia initially took a tough stance on threatened Nato air strikes against Bosnian Serbs besieging Sarajevo.

saying such a step would only fuel the 22-month civil war. However, Mr Kozyrev softened that line on Saturday. His volte-face comes before his meeting tomorrow with Mr Hurd. Their talks are likely to be dominated by discussions of future international reaction to Bosnia and the fate of Russia's reforms after the reshuffle of the Cabinet last month, weighting it towards more conservative figures.

President Yeltsin is under pressure from nationalists and Communists in the Russian parliament to oppose the threat of air strikes against the Serbs, Russia's historical allies. But after telephone consultation with President Clinton on Friday, Mr Yeltsin has apparently decided to try to keep Moscow in line with the international community.

British officials insist that there are only "nuances of difference" between Russia and the West. The known doubts of Mr Major and Mr Hurd about air strikes will, they hope, help to persuade Mr Yeltsin that the decision to impose an ultimatum was correct, but strictly limited to the goal of lifting the Sarajevo siege. The Kremlin seems anxious to show that its foreign policy is not hostage to pressure from hardliners, with Mr Kozyrev emphasising consistency.

At Athens, Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, last night expressed misgivings about Nato air strikes, but said: "We must now allow our political leaders to make decisions and live with them."

Rose interview, page 1
Nightmare children, page 14
Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article and letters, page 17

Hungary to suspend surveillance flights

By ADAM LEBOR

HUNGARY will refuse the use of its air space for Nato surveillance missions if air strikes are launched against the Bosnian Serbs. The decision reflects an increasing rapprochement between Budapest and Belgrade.

At present, Hungary allows Nato aircraft on surveillance missions over former Yugoslavia to use Hungarian air space. But, mindful of the 400,000 ethnic Hungarians living in northern Serbia,

Budapest is trying to balance its strongly pro-Western policies and desire to join Nato and the European Union against coping with the neighbouring Milosevic regime.

A government official said, however, that although Avacs "planes could not use Hungarian air space during the few hours when strikes take place" they "were welcome to continue monitoring the skies over Bosnia if no attacks were under way".



A weapons crew on the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga in the Adriatic loading a missile on to an American fighter jet in preparation for possible Nato air strikes in Bosnia

War fever exposes vulnerability of relief workers in Bosnia

FROM ADAM LEBOR
IN ZAGREB

THE United Nations aid operation to central Bosnia continued over the weekend in spite of the threat of air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs, but convoys were held up by heavy fighting between Bosnian Croats and mainly Muslim government forces in central Bosnia, UN relief officials said yesterday.

Five convoys left the UN warehouse depot in Metkovic en route to the Bosnian government-held town of Zenica in central Bosnia. Zenica is the hub of the relief operation in the region and its warehouses provide food and supplies for dozens of nearby towns and villages.

However, intense fighting at the strategically vital town of Gornji Vakuf prevented them from arriving. Gornji Vakuf is an important staging post on Route Diamond, the main aid route into central Bosnia from the Croatian coast that crosses the front lines between Bosnian Croat and Bosnian government-held territory.

Some convoys returned to



Metkovic while others were waiting yesterday at the Bosnian Croat stronghold of Tomislavgrad. Ron Redmond, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Zagreb. Three aid workers delayed from leaving Banja Luka in Bosnian Serb-con-

trolled territory last week arrived in Zagreb over the weekend. Bosnian Serb authorities had demanded that all relief workers wanting to leave must now apply for permission 48 hours in advance, raising fears among aid officials that they could be held hostage. "They were not

too happy at being detained and we were upset that no one informed us about the new rules," Mr Redmond said.

The threat of air strikes has highlighted the already precarious position of the hundreds of aid workers, including many local staff, stretched out across Bosnia. Many of those not based in Serb-occupied territory, such as aid workers in Vitez in central Bosnia, are still vulnerable to Bosnian Serb reprisals as they are within range of the Serbs' heavy artillery.

Relief officials will judge security considerations for the different regions after any air strikes. One aid official said: "There is already a security contingency plan in place for Bosnia because it is so dangerous there. We might have to stop in some areas but the aid operation could carry on in others."

At Pale, The Bosnian Serbs, excluded from the Winter Olympics in Norway, are staging their own parallel competition this week to mark the tenth anniversary of the Games in Sarajevo. Only Serbs are expected to compete. (Reuters)

Rose will make attack decision

Continued from page 1
he moved the first contingent of a 1,000-member Malaysian United Nations battalion alongside the French UN troops on the hitherto dangerous Sarajevo front line, in an attempt to consolidate the remarkable and rather eerie ceasefire.

The American Embassy in Belgrade evacuated diplomats' families as a precaution against Serb reprisals, amid reports that, in defiance of the air strike threat, Serb commanders had called a halt to the handover of heavy weapons, demanding that Bosnian Muslim forces pull back from the front line. But the Serbs later handed over five artillery pieces to UN control at the Mokro barracks, southeast of Sarajevo.

Approximately 2,000 troops are involved in the UN operation. General Rose talked tough even though the relatively small number of "blue helmets" would be little match for either side if open hostilities were to resume.

The former SAS commander's tour in Yemen, the Falkland Islands and Northern Ireland make him the most

experienced commander of the UN troops in Bosnia so far. "Our mandate gives us freedom of movement, unimpeded access, and the right of self-defence, and we will demand that," General Rose said, adding that UN troops would confront Muslim, Serb or Croat forces who hampered their work.

Since assuming the post last month, he has taken a sterner, more forceful approach to handling the parties to the conflict than his two predecessors. In his few short weeks in the post, he seems to have convinced the Serbs and the Bosnian government that he means business, and that where previous commanders turned the other cheek, he would not.

"Don't expect us to come out with guns blazing, we are not combatants here," he said. If the Serbs resume shelling the city, he said, air strikes would be used to ensure those guns fell silent and stayed that way, not to punish the Serbs.

When the guns have been quiet long enough, General Rose believes, the resumption of normal life will bring about a solution.

Norse warrior plans tough action to reopen Tuzla airfield

TO OPEN Tuzla aerodrome Lieutenant Colonel Bengt Berlin wants Leopard tanks. He also wants close air support. In the wake of Sarajevo's market massacre and the subsequent Western show of resolve, he may get both.

Colonel Berlin is second-in-command of the Tuzla-based Nordic Battalion, a composite unit including Swedes, Danes and Norwegians. His dry manner and piercing gaze through tinted, circular spectacles add a sinister edge to this belligerent Norseman. In November he deployed a Milan anti-tank missile and strike aircraft in an intimidatory role to secure the release of three Swedish troops taken hostage by a platoon of renegade Chechens near Vares.

Now he has been ordered to prepare Tuzla airfield, closed since its destruction by the retreating Yugoslav National Army in May 1992, for UN aid flights. He has



Anthony Loyd in Tuzla meets the Norwegian colonel determined to open the way for airlifted aid that would bypass the controls Serb and Croat gunmen impose on overland convoys

some definite ideas as to how to go about it.

"If anyone shoots at us with small arms, then we return fire with small arms. If it is heavy machinegun fire, then we reply with heavy machineguns. If they shoot at us with a tank, we must reply with a tank. Artillery, we cannot see, so the only thing we can hit back with is close air support," he said in his forward headquarters near the damaged runway.

In addition to forcing the withdrawal of Serb guns around Sarajevo and effecting the UN troop

rotation in Srebrenica, the UN has postulated close air support as a means of opening up Tuzla airfield. Now, in its present mood, which no longer agonises over potential withdrawal but instead over how, what and where to strike, the Swedes are within three weeks of preparing the airfield.

A stream of pilots, flight engineers and logistics experts have added their advice on layout and flight path. Built for military purposes in 1962, the airport could enable the UN to fly up to 200 tons of aid per day at maximum

capacity directly into Bosnia, avoiding the overland routes through Herzegovina and Serbia.

"At present all aid has to pass through Bosnian Serb or Bosnian Croat territory. That means the warring parties have total control over everything coming into Bosnia," said Colonel Berlin. "So its opening is a high-priority operation."

The Serbs are unhappy at the prospect and shell the runway regularly from hillsides only five miles to the east, with artillery and tank fire. A flow of aid into Bosnia over which they had no control would deprive them of a valuable bargaining chip. So in addition to the technical lighting, control, repair and instrument landing systems, Colonel Berlin wants his ten Leopard tanks, languishing in Split on the Dalmatian coast as the UN prevaricates over details regarding their suitability in an aid operation.



Ten Leopard tanks, kept at Split, are needed to guard runway

"We need them, because if we are determined to open the airfield we must stay even if we are shelled," said the colonel. "The only thing we can do that with, at reasonable risk to my soldiers, is main battle

tanks." He plans to deploy the tanks first to secure the perimeter, then to provide mobile observation posts to monitor the Serb positions that threaten the operation. Earlier wrangling between the UN and

Bosnian Serbs over approval of the plan, in which the Serbs demanded the right to open their military airfield at Banja Luka in return for stopping their bombardments, have subsided as talk by Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose of "determined approach", "robust means" and "consequences" takes effect.

"Unproven doesn't have to have the approval of the Serbs to open Tuzla airfield. It would be entirely run by the UN, with Bosnian Serb monitors present, in the same way as Sarajevo," said Colonel Berlin. "The UN mandate here is to feed the needy population. That involves opening roads and Tuzla. It is all part of the mission. We should be respected as a third party that is not part of the war. If someone doesn't respect us, they must take the consequences. Consequences are something they have not been taking recently."

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Major lobbies EC leaders for Brittan to replace Delors

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS

JOHN Major, in an attempt to boost Britain's influence in Brussels, has sent messages to ten fellow Prime Ministers in the European Union asking them to back Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British commissioner, as the next President of the European Commission.

The only leader who did not receive Mr Major's letter was Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch Prime Minister, who is the leading candidate to succeed Jacques Delors when the Frenchman steps down after a decade as head of the Commission at the end of this year.

As Sir Leon's campaign has moved into high gear and the race enters its final lap, he and Mr Lubbers appear to be the only real runners. The decision is made by the EU's 12 leaders and may not be announced formally until their next regular summit, in Corfu in June, but secret lobbying will determine the outcome within the next three months.

Between now and the end of April, Sir Leon will have dropped into all of the EU capitals for a chat with each Prime Minister: this week he stops in Dublin to see Albert Reynolds. Proof copies of Sir Leon's forthcoming book, *The Europe We Need*, have been flopping through the letterboxes of the Continent's great and good.

Although Sir Leon has thrown his hat in the ring at Mr Major's request, he has few firm pledges to count on, and the smart money remains on Mr Lubbers. Sir Leon's campaign, which was at first thought to be quixotic, is also an each-way bet. If he loses, being taken seriously as a presidential candidate will help ensure that he becomes the most powerful player in the Commission after Mr Lubbers. "Leon is going for it quite simply because John Major asked him to, and Leon

Ruud Lubbers, Prime Minister of The Netherlands, is favourite to take over the European Commission presidency. But Sir Leon Brittan's campaign is gathering steam

is a great believer in willpower, even if the odds look discouraging," one source said.

It was the culmination of the world trade negotiations just before Christmas that boosted Sir Leon's chances and media exposure. Sir Leon, the Commission's trade negotiator, spent several high-profile days at the eye of the storm personifying the EU's joint trade policy, almost the only form of European integration that scored any success last year. During the celebration over the last-minute deal, French officials traditionally hostile to Sir Leon's free-market views began to wonder out loud if they had not found a candidate they might prefer to Mr Lubbers.

In the discreet lobbying to clinch a large enough total of votes to secure victory, France is the vote to capture. Mr Lubbers may be the longest-serving Dutch Prime Minister this century, but he upset President Mitterrand in 1991 by cutting the final deal on the Maastricht treaty with Mr Major and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, without letting the French know what he was up to.

Courting the French vote is complicated by the uneasy power-sharing between the Socialist Mitterrand and Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister. Sir Leon's relations with M Balladur are good, since the two men were in almost constant contact during the closing weeks of the trade talks. Contacts with the presidential palace have been opened. Sir Leon has been hunting to his Parisian friends that France's commissioner

might land the powerful external affairs portfolio in Brussels if they back him for the top job.

Mr Delors' appointment in 1984 was a deal between President Mitterrand and Herr Kohl. One of Sir Leon's officials visits top people in Bonn this week. Last May, Sir Leon delivered a speech before Herr Kohl in Bonn which set out his stall as the candidate backing a single currency for Europe but opposed to "perfectionist demands" for European integration. The speech adroitly implied that Sir Leon's European ideals — and Mr Major's wish to be at the heart of Europe — were inspired by the Konrad Adenauer, the father of German Christian Democracy.



Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, stolen in a weekend Oslo raid

Thieves face grief in selling off Munch

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND AND TONY SAMSTAG

IF *The Scream* was stolen by the art world's legendary "Mr Big" — a Dr No figure who captures world masterpieces for his private delectation — he may be of a lonely and tortured disposition.

The painting by Edvard Munch, stolen on Saturday morning from Oslo's National Gallery, is from the gloomy Norwegian artist's *Frieze of Life* series. Famous around the globe through posters, advertisements and even an Andy Warhol print, few people would choose to live with its anguished content.

According to Munch, his series showed "the suffering and joys of the individual as seen from close hand". *The Scream* was definitely inclined towards the former.

With a third of Norway's police force in and around Lillehammer, about 100 miles north of the capital, for the Winter Olympics, two men entered the gallery through a window and made off with *The Scream*. The theft, which was filmed on security cameras, took less than a minute.

The painting is the jewel in the crown of a large collection of works bequeathed by the artist to the city of Oslo on his death in 1944. Art experts doubt that there is a Mr Big who steals for himself. Whether opportu-

nistic or professional, art thefts tend to be carried out purely for financial gain. The painting is so well known that it is virtually unsaleable. The consensus in the art world is that its theft could be followed by a ransom demand, or — coinciding as it did with the opening of the Winter Games — some form of political demand.

The painting had been moved from the first to the ground floor for a special Olympic exhibition. There were no bars or screens on the window broken by the thieves: Knut Berg, the director of the National Gallery, told a television interviewer it had been assumed that intruders would not dare break the window for fear of cutting themselves.

That the thieves selected just one picture, and were able to spirit it away from the museum in under a minute, suggests they are highly professional. But other scenarios are possible. For example, two paintings worth £100,000, stolen in 1991 from Lincoln's Inn, central London, turned up last year in a London street market where a Westminster Council worker bought them for £145.

Leading article, page 17
Winter Olympics, pages 23, 25



Silvio Berlusconi, left, in Milan with Umberto Bossi after they announced their electoral pact

Andreatta tells right to drop Fascist poll pact

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY will cease to be a credible European partner if the right-wing "Liberty Pole" alliance led by Silvio Berlusconi wins the March 27 general election, Beniamino Andreatta, the Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

Signor Andreatta urged Signor Berlusconi, the flamboyant media mogul and leader of the Forza Italia grouping, not to adopt "the role of the Italian Zhirinovskiy". He urged the tycoon to renounce the electoral pact he has forged with the National Alliance grouping, the main component of which is the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI).

A central plank of the National Alliance programme would commit Italy to try to reclaim former Italian territory in Slovenia and Croatia, along the Istrian coast, lost as Fascism collapsed during the Second World War.

"The territorial claims advanced by the National Alliance pose extremely grave problems for the country as a trustworthy partner in foreign policy," Signor Andreatta told *La Repubblica* newspaper. "To put forward 'historic rights' to Istria could provoke in Europe the same anxiety as that produced by the German neo-Nazis when they speak of the Sudety Mountains or of German Silesia."

"I hope that the allies of [the neo-Fascist leader, Gianfranco] Fini sever any electoral connection. Otherwise one creates an important grouping that has some possibility of winning a majority, and therefore of leading the country, that has demerited ideas."

The Cambridge-educated Signor Andreatta, a university

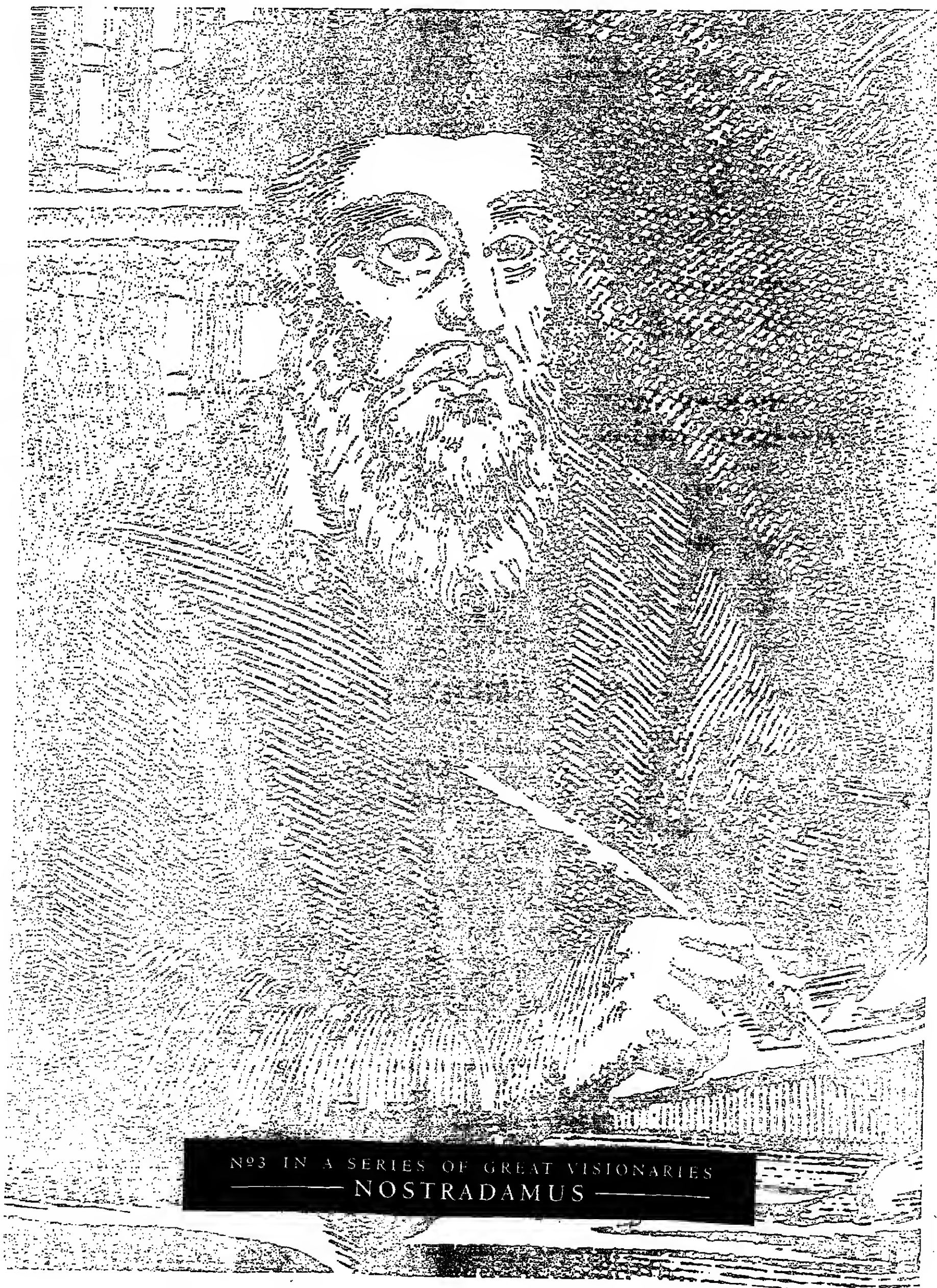
professor before he became Foreign Minister last year, spoke as a bewildering plethora of parties presented their electoral symbols at the Interior Ministry for official approval to appear on ballot sheets.

He said that he would be prepared to serve again as Foreign Minister in the next government if there were a victory for the moderate centre represented by the National Pact, which is headed by Mario Segni, the main inspiration for Italy's electoral reform referendum, and its ally, the Italian Popular Party (PPI), formerly the Christian Democrats.

Signor Andreatta's remarks were a boost for the moderates and a further blow to Signor Berlusconi, whose brother Paolo was arrested last Friday on charges of corruption. The brothers' business careers flourished in tandem in the 1960s and 1970s and although Paolo later claimed that his interests were separate from those of Silvio, few observers were overly convinced.

"We have never paid bribes," Silvio Berlusconi told supporters at the port of Ancona in his first campaign meeting on Saturday.

The Forza Italia leader is relying for votes on the anti-communist alliance he formed with the MSI and its allies in the south and centre, and with the devolutionist Northern League. Despite a joint press conference between him and Umberto Bossi on Friday, however, many League supporters are believed to be disillusioned with their leadership's decision to throw in their lot with the larger-than-life television mogul.



N93 IN A SERIES OF GREAT VISIONARIES
— NOSTRADAMUS —

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Buthlezi calls on Zulus to die in defence of beliefs

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN
IN JOHANNESBURG

NINETEEN political parties have registered to contest South Africa's first all-race election in April. They do not include the white right wing, or the conservative ruling parties of KwaZulu and Bophuthatswana, and as yesterday's deadline for registration expired, South Africans started to face up to the prospect of open civil war. It should first be pointed out that the deadline — like virtually all other deadlines in the four-year negotiations on a new constitution — still has some elasticity.

MPs can change the constitution, and it would be no great problem for them to extend the election deadline to allow the conservative parties to register.

But the parties presently give no sign of relaxing their determination to boycott the election. The talk on all sides is of further violence.

Ferdinand Hartzenberg, the

Afrikaner and Zulu leaders kept to their poll boycott as the deadline passed for parties to register. A slender hope remains that they may yet contest the April election

Leader of the far-right Conservative Party, made his point unambiguously last week in declaring that perhaps "a little bit of violence" would be necessary if the government, the African National Congress and the Communist Party tried to impose their will on the Afrikaner people. He thus joined General Constand Viljoen, the Leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront, who had earlier thought that "limited violence" might be needed.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of KwaZulu and the Leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, went further and called on his followers to lay down their lives for their beliefs, adding: "It is impossible for me to lie to you and reassure you that the

IFP's opposition to fighting the election under the present constitution will not bring casualties and even death". Though Chief Buthelezi made it plain that he was talking about self-defence, and not urging his supporters to go out and kill, he declared that the ANC alliance was "out to destroy us", and told them to "face them head on".

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, has given a warning that limited violence will be met by an unlimited response. This led to much scoffing by the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement, which seems to think that such forces as are at the command of Eugene Terre'Blanche, their Leader, would be able to deal with any black opposition



President de Klerk trying to silence African National Congress demonstrators as he addressed a Nationalist Party rally near Bloemfontein

much as Andries Pretorius and his 500 or so Voortrekkers dispatched 3,000 Zulus at the battle of Blood River in 1838. But the reality is that the Boers at Blood River had muskets and horses, and the Zulus only assegais. In later wars, as South African troops discov-

ered in 1988 at Cuervo Cuanavale in Angola, a well-equipped black army can at least hold its own.

The government has drawn up secret plans to counter any attempt by the white right to disrupt the election and to isolate any units within the

armed forces that might support it. President de Klerk said in Bloemfontein on Saturday he was confident of the loyalty of the armed forces.

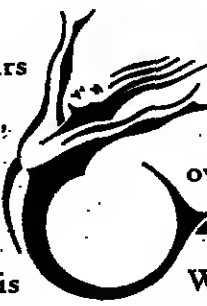
A historical parallel suggests itself. In 1940, Afrikaner extremists formed a pro-Hitler organisation called the Os-

sewabrandwag and blew up railway lines to disrupt the war effort. But there was no question about the loyalty of the security forces. The Ossewabrandwag members were arrested and when Jan Smuts, the Prime Minister, called for volunteers to join the army at

least one in three Afrikaners of military age joined up. Mr de Klerk is to meet King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulus today; the ANC and the Bophuthatswana government meet later. There seems little chance of agreement. But it could happen.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

UN soldier shot dead in Somali ambush

Mogadishu: Violence flared in Somalia as gunmen ambushed a UN convoy in Mogadishu, killing an Egyptian soldier. About 60 people were reported killed and more than 5,000 driven out of Kismayu, the southern port city, in battles between rival clans.

A UN spokesman said the soldier died and another was wounded on a road guarded by Pakistani troops. Other gunmen kidnapped two Italian aid workers in central Somalia. The Somali Salvation Alliance, a group of 12 factions aligned to Ali Mahdi Muhammad, blamed the Kismayu clashes on General Muhammad Farrah Aidid. In Nairobi, his spokesman denied the charge and condemned the violence. (Reuters)

Tribal toll

Bujumbura: Between 25,000 and 50,000 people were massacred in the tribal bloodbath which followed a coup bid in Burundi last October by soldiers of the Tutsi-led army against the country's first Hutu President, an international enquiry found. (AFP)

55 stand trial

Paris: Algeria, fighting Muslim fundamentalist unrest, has put 55 people on trial in Oran accused of setting up an armed group, smuggling weapons and helping Algerians return home after undergoing guerrilla training in Afghanistan. (Reuters)

Boat capsizes

Bangkok: About 200 Burmese, including women and children, who had been working illegally in Thailand, were feared dead after a boat taking them home capsized off Thailand. Police and rescue workers said they had recovered 58 bodies so far. (Reuters)

Tehran switch

Nicosia: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme spiritual leader, has appointed Ali Larjani, the Minister of Islamic Culture, to head state-owned television and radio in place of Muhammad Hashemi, the brother of President Rafsanjani. (Reuters)

Nuclear target

Alma Ata: President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan is to seek at least \$1 billion (£714 million) compensation for nuclear disarmament when he meets President Clinton in Washington to develop trade and diplomatic links. (Reuters)

Flight relief

Dallas: American Airlines, the biggest US carrier, is to launch its first smoke-free transatlantic service on May 1 on the New York-London route. A recent survey showed that passengers preferred non-smoking flights. (Reuters)

Safe Valentine

Brussels: The British charity CSV Media is organising a Europe-wide campaign on the dangers of unprotected sex. Today, St Valentine's Day, Aids awareness activists will hand out 10,000 "Euro-condoms" and a ten-language guide to safe sex. (Reuters)



Crompton: law and order takes time

British officers to train PLO police

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

HALF a century after Britain disbanded the Palestine Police in the closing days of colonial rule, British officers are returning to the Holy Land to help establish a modern Palestinian force.

Yesterday Dan Crompton, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, was expected in Jerusalem with Chief Superintendent John Tunney to begin training some of the 15,000 Palestinian policemen to be deployed in the occupied territories later this year.

The Chief Constable admitted that there were problems of law and order in Nottingham, but nothing like the daily violence in the occupied territories, where yesterday, for instance, one Israeli was shot dead and two others were injured when their vehicle was attacked by militant Islamic gunmen near the West Bank town of Ramallah.

"Even if there were peace there tomorrow, it would take time to establish order," Mr Crompton said before his arrival last night. "You cannot move from a scenario of lawlessness to a scenario of peace overnight. I am not starry-eyed about this. It is not going to be easy."

The new version of the Palestine Police is likely to inherit some strong British characteristics. For instance, the first recruits trained in neighbouring Jordan marched to the sound of bagpipes and drums at their passing-out parade last year. The Palestine Liberation Organisation has also expressed an interest in buying Land-Rovers for its force, to distinguish their vehicles from American-made Israeli military Jeeps.

The issue of the Palestinian police is expected to come up for negotiation this week at Taba, where Palestinian and Israeli teams resume their talks.

Leading article, page 17

Children of the nightmare

Once again, a young voice is telling the story of barbarism raging at the heart of Europe, says Margot Norman

Yehuda Bacon was a boy of ten when the Germans occupied Czechoslovakia in 1939. By the time American soldiers rescued him from a camp in Germany he had come through Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and one of the death marches of the last winter of the war. Fifteen thousand Czechoslovakian Jewish children were sent to the camps; Yehuda was one of only 25 who survived. He had typhoid, he looked and felt barely human, but he had memorised every detail of what he had seen so that he could tell the world. "My hope was, if I tell what I saw, then people will change for the better. My greatest disappointment was that people didn't want to listen, and they didn't change."

Zlata Filipovic, of Sarajevo, was also ten when, in the autumn of 1991, she started to keep a diary. She called it Mimmy, and confided in it like a friend. Her record of the next two years describes the last days of an idyllic childhood, the coming of a terrifying and incomprehensible war, and her family's attempts to keep safe and sane.

As people hear about her diary they start calling her the Anne Frank of Sarajevo. "That frightens me, Mimmy. I don't want to suffer her fate," Zlata struggles to understand why people haven't changed. Why the sight of crowds jostling to get on one of the convoys reminds her of films of the Jews fleeing Hitler, why ethnic cleansing keeps bringing refugees from what used to be ordinary, civilised towns, why all this seems to be happening again in the heart of Europe under the eyes of the blue berets and the world's television cameras.

Yehuda Bacon tells his story on ITV tomorrow night on Network First's *Children of the Holocaust*, in which he and three Jews from Hungary, Belgium and Poland recall their harrowing childhood experiences of war. Zlata Filipovic's diary is being published here by Viking, having first appeared in Serbo-Croat under the imprint of Unicef (The United Nations Children's Fund) and in Paris, where it was a bestseller.

Unproven (the UN protection forces) got Zlata and her parents out to Paris on December 23. Her mother, a chemist who had agonised over and missed an earlier chance to leave with her only child but without her husband, had to leave her elderly parents behind in their flat by the market; the shelling that goaded the world into threatening air-strikes delivered the coup de grace to her shattered nerves.

What links Yehuda Bacon and Zlata Filipovic is not so much the detail of their experience as the fact that both cast themselves as observers and seem to have achieved a



An uncanny detachment from the horrors of Bosnia: the young diarist Zlata Filipovic says "I have to be all right"

strengthening detachment because of it. Bacon, who later became famous for painting those scenes with a child's eye and a man's hand, consciously memorised every detail as a relatively kindly kapo in Auschwitz took him and some other frozen children down to the gas chambers to get warm. He asked about everything, saw the great bags of human hair, the box for gold fillings, heard how the guards told prisoners to leave their shoes neatly paired "so they could find them when they came out", knew he would one day draw all this. It didn't stop him developing the concentration camp mind-set — he laughed at the first funeral he saw afterwards, at such a fuss over a single death, and spent his first theatre visit wondering how long it would take to gas the audience.

Journalists who met Zlata in Sarajevo found her mature composure uncanny among so many shell-shocked children, but put it down to the fact that, like themselves, she had the chronicler's protective distance from events. "I have to be all right," she said simply, as her mother, shattered by the daily gauntlet-run across the bridge through sniper fire, and hours in the cellar balancing her

strengthening detachment because of it. Bacon, who later became famous for painting those scenes with a child's eye and a man's hand, consciously memorised every detail as a relatively kindly kapo in Auschwitz took him and some other frozen children down to the gas chambers to get warm. He asked about everything, saw the great bags of human hair, the box for gold fillings, heard how the guards told prisoners to leave their shoes neatly paired "so they could find them when they came out", knew he would one day draw all this. It didn't stop him developing the concentration camp mind-set — he laughed at the first funeral he saw afterwards, at such a fuss over a single death, and spent his first theatre visit wondering how long it would take to gas the audience.

‘The circle is closing, strangling us. I look at Mummy and Daddy. In two years they’ve aged ten’

phobia about mice against fear of the shelling, collapsed weeping.

Before the siege she had everything a loved and pampered European child might want: the flat in the old town was big and had great views of the hills from which later the gunners had great views of the flat, her lawyer father could afford a country house, skiing trips, holidays in Italy, piano and language lessons. She watched MTV and raved about Madonna and Michael Jackson, read *Adrian Mole* and *Enid Blyton*.

By last September, after the Bosnia-Herzegovina parliament had put conditions on accepting the Geneva agreement, she was writing: "Once more the circle closes. The circle is closing, Mimmy, and it's strangling us... I look at Mummy and Daddy. In two years they've aged ten. And me? I haven't aged but I've grown. I honestly

don't know how... I am a child of rice, peas and spaghetti."

In a couple of weeks they were back hiding in the cellar, counting 590 shells in one day from "our friends in the hills". By then she was convinced it would never end. "Because some people don't want it to, some evil people who hate children and ordinary folk."

In Zlata's world, both Muslim and Christian feasts are celebrated as entirely secular family holidays, and she identifies nobody in her extensive cast of characters by their race or religion. Indeed, she makes a point of saying her family and friends are Muslims. Croats and Serbs, and until "politics" intervened she didn't know or care who was which. So who are these evil ones bringing death and starvation? They are "the kids", as the politicians are universally known. "The kids are really playing, which

is why we kids are not playing, why we are living in fear, we are suffering, we are not enjoying the sun and flowers, we are not enjoying our childhood. We are crying!"

Children of the German Holocaust didn't know or care about race and religion either, until Hitler's "kids" made it a matter of life and death. Unlike those who insist on the uniquely evil nature of that experience, Yehuda Bacon didn't bridle when I asked him about Bosnia and Zlata. When he first tried to tell his tale, people whom the war had hardly touched would shut him up, saying "We suffered too, you know!" He still believes, in spite of everything, in telling the truth: "For me, the meaning of life is to say truthfully what we went through and not despair. When I came out of the camps I was lucky to meet wonderful human beings who had meaning in their lives. We have to underline the possibility of goodness in human beings. We know they can do terrible things and go on doing terrible things but it is that hope, the hope of goodness, that gives meaning to life."

● Zlata's Diary, published on February 25 by Viking, £9.99.

Why we can tolerate a maverick school

Don't badger Summerhill

IF you wanted a report on the progress and well-being of a tankful of goldfish, you would probably not give the job to a badger. It would only come back full of complaints about the wet living conditions, the apparent aimlessness of the fish, their complete lack of interest in digging and their deplorable failure to grow any fur. You would end up with disgruntled badgers and miffed fish. It would be a waste of time.

This image lodged in my head while reading the report by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools after three besuited inspectors spent three bewildering days among the chronically liberated, self-governing children of Summerhill progressive school in Suffolk. As a rule, I much admire HMIs: indeed, if governments had listened to them over the past 30 years we would not have needed the present education reforms. But when they go to Summerhill and find it faithful to the principles of its

founder A.S. Neill, (no compulsory lessons, children voting equally with adults), the poor, dogged badgers are bewildered.

They struggle to be fair. They acknowledge the co-operation, the responsibility of older pupils: they admit that many of these vigorously foul-mouthed children have had problems at ordinary schools, and acknowledge the "notable enthusiasm and willingness of those pupils who attended lessons".

Even the condition of the swimming pool, which sent the last lot of inspectors into vapours, is OK this time: they mention the mixed nude bathing, a vital part of the garden-of-Eden ethos (what, no regulation crossover straps? Where do they sew their badges?) but choke back any view they may have.

But more prominently reported was the HMI's wail of anguish about the school's shortcomings. Inadequate history, geography, R.I., and information technology: "poor attendance rates" at lessons (well, the whole point is they don't have to go) and a shortage of GCSEs. To which the headmistress, A.S. Neill's daughter Zoe Readhead, replies: "They are judging us on standards we are not even trying to meet. They miss the point." Fish gotta swim, badgers gotta dig.

Mutual incomprehension mounts. "There is physical contact between staff and children which is of a caring and comforting kind and no improper behaviour was observed," say the inspectors, between their teeth. "There are, nevertheless, risks in this that children, particularly girls, could acquire behaviour which makes them vulnerable." At which point Mrs Readhead's

tolerance starts to fray. "Vulnerable children are the ones nobody ever cuddles. Our children are not in awe of adults. They may hang on to Matthew the house-parent, but anyone who put a hand down their knickers would get an earful."

As a parent and former little girl, I can quite see the sense of that: the only one in our class to get lured into the biology cupboard with Mr Dodge was the child of a chilly home whose craving for reassuring cuddles was legendary in the school. There are two ways to protect children from seduction: I suppose one way is to train them to scream when anybody touches them, but Summerhill's is another. And there are two ways to educate within a compulsory structure and outside one. Each has its successes and failures.

And if democracy and parental choice mean anything at all, the badgers would do well to back off, watch for actual danger, and stop threatening.

There are 66 children at Summerhill: half of them English, a third Japanese. Their parents are probably less bamboozled here than elsewhere. Dr John Rae, former head of Westminster, once told me that before parents were shown round, his idyllic-up even extended to arranging the absence of certain particularly depressing-looking pupils; at least at Summerhill, what you see is what you get.

When the HMIs observe that "shared spaces are uncomfortable and dreary... some rooms take on a squalid appearance", they should accept that these things are hidden from nobody. "If it's battered," said Mrs Readhead to me on Saturday morning in her own perfectly respectable house, "it's because that is the way the kids want it. We don't forever nag them. Some of them go through phases of keeping their bedrooms looking really nice."

THE school's confident innocence was abused two years ago when it let in a Channel 4 crew. The result focused heavily on one obnoxious American boy (long since gone), and on a brief experiment with abolishing rules and bedtimes (very educational: the children voted them back). Even that film did not put parents off. There are people out there who still want free-wheeling, scruffy, swearing, self-regulating Summerhill. Just as there are people who want their infant children in grey serge and striped ties, learning to classify all adults as "Sir", "Miss", or "Matron". Nobody is being conned. Sixty-six maverick children of maverick parents will not bring down civilization. Back off, badgers.

LIBBY PURVES

Even in the age of the fax and electronic mail, hearts are trembling in anticipation of today's post

An epistle from Eros

"I have expected your letter all this day with the greatest impatience that was possible, and at last resolved to go out and meet the fellow; and when I got down to the stables, I found him come, had set up his horse, and was sweeping the stable in great order. I could not imagine him so very, a beast as to think his horse were to be sent before me, and therefore was presently struck with an apprehension he had no letter for me: it went cold to my heart as ice."

This was Dorothy Osborne writing to her future husband Sir William Temple in 1650. This morning, nearly 400 years later, many of us will have felt the same chill of anticipation at the sound of the postman's rattle at the letterbox.

Even in the age of faxes and phones there can hardly be anyone who has not searched through their bills for some sign of reassurance, or sat for painful hours over "just a quick note" crossing out, ripping up, leading through the thesaurus and copying out the whole thing with their best fountain pen.

A love letter is the most potent way to declare oneself. "It is a declaration that does not disappear into the warm night air of a romantic evening, but can be kept or smiled over in years to come," says Nicolas Soames, the editor, with Robt Hamilton, of *Intimate Letters* (Marginalia Press, £14.99 hardback, £7.99 paperback).

Mr Soames, a judo and classical music expert, porched over thousands of letters to

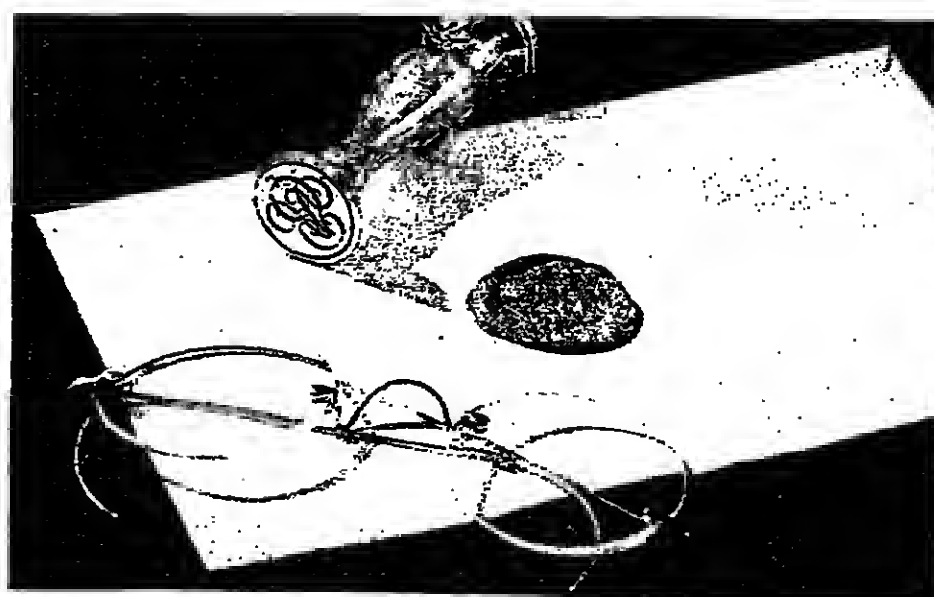
make up a collection of 400, by 100 different authors, including Michelangelo to Vittoria Colonna, Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn, John Keats to Fanny Brawne, Jean-Paul Sartre to Simone de Beauvoir and Benjamin Britten to Peter Pears.

How did he make the selection? "I was looking for letters that reflect the human side of history, ones where you can really hear the person speaking," Mr Soames says.

He was most moved by the 12th-century correspondence of Abelard and Eloise. These French lovers were tragically separated by her angry relatives, she spent most of her life in a convent and he as a monk. Most of their lifelong correspondence deals with theological matters, but on occasion they become astonishingly frank. At one point Heloise reminds about their former infatuation and confesses: "Even during the celebration of the Mass, when our prayers should be pure, I find visions of those pleasures take such a hold upon my unhappy soul that my thoughts are on their wantonness instead of on prayers."

Even the great heroes of history sound touchingly human when they are in love. "I can neither eat nor sleep for thinking of you, my dearest love," Lord Nelson writes to Emma Hamilton. "I never touch even pudding."

The moral is that great letters are not necessarily great letters and that great letter writers are happy to practise their skills on anyone. Lord Byron said it all



Signed and sealed — a traditional love letter straight from the heart

when he tried to warn off Harriette Wilson. "I think you must be aware that a writer is in general very different from his productions, and always disappoints those who expect to find in him qualities more agreeable than those of others."

Wagner, only a week after swearing his undying love to Cosima von Bulow, writes to his housekeeper Marie Volk "Heavens! How I am looking forward to relaxing with you again at last. I hope the pink drawers are ready too?"

Because letters keep two people at a safe distance, they are also the ideal medium for fantasies. Sarah Austin, a model Victorian wife and mother, fell passionately in love with a German aristocrat, Herman Puckler-Muskau, whose book she had translated. She bombarded him with letters full of sensual longing. "My bosom is not extremely round and prominent, but round and firm," she writes to a man whom she never met.

Mr Soames thinks the ubiquitous fax may help to revive our epistolary skills. Certainly it came in useful for the cricketer Graeme Fowler, who earlier this month faxed his wife in Australia with the message "I shall be filing for divorce."

Would-be Cyrano de Bergeracs can also exercise their skills on the electronic E-mail, which in the late 20th century must rank along with the

Christmas party as the source of most office romances. Recently Mark Cooper and Teresa Burick got engaged after a nine-month flirtation via their modems. After she accepted his proposal, Mr Cooper travelled from North Humberston to her home in Pennsylvania to ask her again, this time on his knees.

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

THE TIMES Four Free Classical CDs or Cassettes

Over the last three weeks, *The Times* in association with Conifer Records, has offered readers the opportunity to collect four free CDs or cassettes of great classical music on top quality record labels.

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This week's free recording, *Modern Times*, covers the music of the 20th century and features the works of ten leading composers - Stravinsky, Debussy, Elgar, Copland, Bartok, Britten, Messiaen, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev and Arnold.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE CD OR CASSETTE Take advantage of this offer, simply collect two tokens from *The Times* (five will be printed, from Monday February 14, to Friday, February 18). When you have collected the two tokens, fix them to the coupon printed in *The Times* on Saturday, February 12. Complete the coupon and



send it to the address (below). Allow 28 days for delivery. If you missed the coupon for £1.98, made payable in *The Times* last Saturday, backdated copies are available from: *The Times* Classical Collection, P.O. Box 479, 1 Virginia Street, London, E1 9F 0J7 Essex, RM3 8GQ. 782 6137).



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SAPONA PRODUCT RECALL NOTICE

SAPONA 250ML ANTI-STATIC FOAM CLEANER FOR ELECTRONIC OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Sapona, supplier of cleaning products for electronic office equipment, is recalling 250ml cans of aerosol foam cleaner which in certain circumstances may leak or burst.

The foam cleaner is supplied in a distinctive orange and black can. Batch numbers involved are: 3382 & 3483 (printed on neck of can).

Users are advised to handle with care and store in a strong metal or plastic container in a dry, well-ventilated area.

For detailed advice and to organise collection customers are advised to contact their supplier, or the Sapona Helpline on (0284) 425044.

THIS RECALL DOES NOT AFFECT ANY OTHER SAPONA PRODUCTS.



CHANEL: chic and smart



CHANEL: sassy

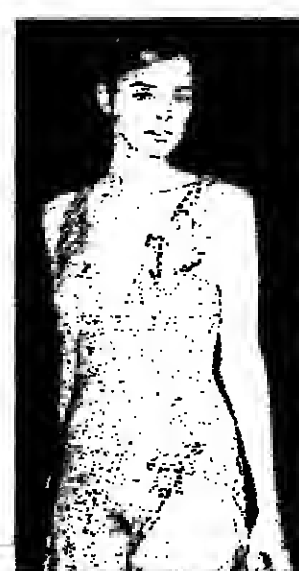


LANG: punk



GHOST: pale and fluid

The world's leading designers have set the tone for the summer of 1994 with a colour that is much more than simply shocking. What to buy, and where to buy it, to put you in the pink



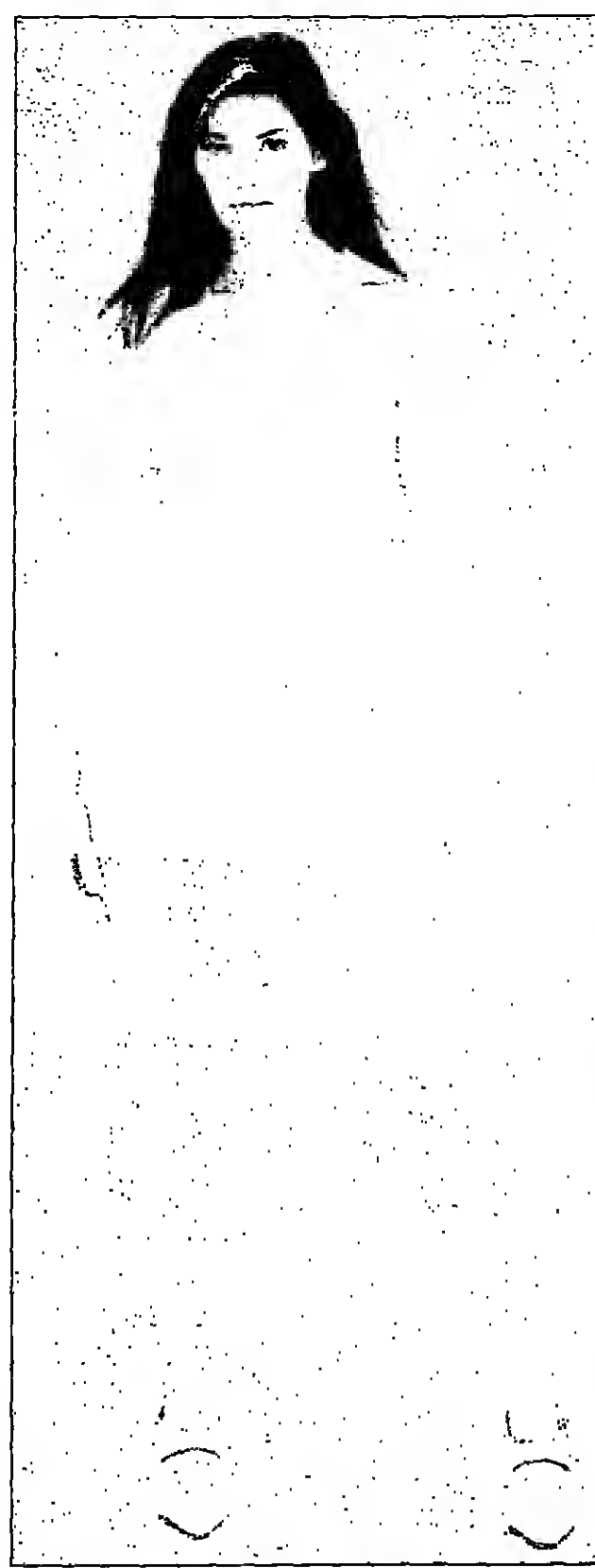
VERSACE: bright nights



YAMAMOTO: bold



WESTWOOD: pretty



IN SEARCH OF PINK

- Pink raw silk t-shirt, £9.99; pink paisley print, bias-cut, skirt, £24.99; pink mini skirt, £14.99, from Top Shop, selected branches nationwide (071 291 2351).
- Bright pink wool jacket, £297.50; bright pink palazzo pants, £212.50, from Paul Costelloe, Fenwick's, Bond Street, London W1 (071 636 6636).
- Pastel pink micro-mini skirt, £65, from Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, London W1 (071 935 7309).
- Pale pink fitted jumper, £90; pink long dress with spaghetti straps, £185, from Joseph, 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 (071 823 9500).
- Bright pink frame bag, £29.95, from Fenwick's, New Bond Street, London W1 (071 431 2756).
- Pale pink blazer, £295; pink collarless jacket, £325, from Aquascutum, 100 Regent Street, London W1 (071 734 6090).
- "Wild Rose" lipstick, £11.50, from Estée Lauder, department stores nationwide.
- Pink floral Otoman jacket, £239, from Jaeger, selected branches nationwide (071 494 2060).
- Pink satin underwired bra, £8.99; matching briefs, £3.99, from Dorothy Perkins, selected branches nationwide (071 291 2604).
- Pink vegora fluffy beret, (various shades), £9.95, from Kangol, major departments, (071 487 4888).
- Pastel pink lambswool twinset, £150, from Burberry's, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1 (071 930 3343).
- Pink mohair jumper, £19.99, from Miss Selfridge, branches nationwide.
- Pale pink babydoll dress, £468, from David Fielden (071 351 0002).
- Pink lace-up shoes with love heart heel and motif, £39.99, from Shellys, Oxford Circus, London W1 (mail order 081 450 0066).
- Bright pink pleated vest, £95, Issey Miyake, 270 Brompton Road, London SW3 (071 581 3760).
- Pink cotton shirts, from £32.50, Thomas Pink, 85 Jermyn Street, London W1 and branches (071 498 2202).
- Pink cotton pyjamas, from £49, Derek Rose, all major department stores (071 434 3482).
- Fuchsia pink nail varnish, £2.25, Barry M (mail order 081 349 2992).

Photographs by IAIN R. WEBB
Make-up: Virginia Young
Hair: James Dodds

The rush to blush

In the final reel of the 1986 film *Pretty in Pink*, actress Molly Ringwald appeared in a dress which was supposed to be a fabulous, entrance-making, breath-taking finale number, the icing on the cake — the heroine looking "pretty in pink". Except she didn't. The dress was a mess. It was a shapeless bag in a sickly shade.

If only Ms Ringwald had had her pick from this season's international collections she might have had a smile on her face as the titles rolled instead of a sulky pout.

For summer 1994, designers have gone mad for pinky hues. Every catwalk was awash with the colour. From chic Chanel to the more thought-provoking avant-garde Yohji Yamamoto. Even Helmut Lang used the pretty pale tint in his aggressive, tough-looking collection, printing white T-shirts with a leopard-skin print. These were topped with sheer, slashed T-shirts in punky pink.

What is refreshing is that there is no single tone to limit your options. In previous seasons one particular hue may have dominated; a sweet baby

pink or a fierce fuchsia may have been all that was on offer. Wear it or be damned. This summer designers may have decided that pink is the hot colour, but the diversity of tone and intensity provides myriad chances to get it just right, just the way you want it.

Even on the same catwalk, the models blushed in the palest barely-there baby pastel, to the most intense looking almost-mauve shade. At Chanel, Karl Lagerfeld sent out the entire spectrum on to the stage. He coloured an icy-blue day suit powder pink, a gently tailored trouser suit a slightly darker tone, and a two-piece swimsuit was in a screamingly bright shade. There is always the fear that wearing pink is not for anyone over the age of consent, but the look need not always seem little girly. Pink can be powerful, too.

Another hot favourite this season is a searing fluorescent pink, often cut into sharp A-line miniskirts, like those at Whistles, or a sliver of silk jersey wrapped around the hips, barely a skirt at all, by Yamamoto. This is an easy look to emulate, costing little.



With a metre of jersey it is possible to make a drape for your own hips, and those of a friend too.

Pink is always a favourite with accessory designers. This season Philip Treacey, the award winning milliner who

scored a hat trick at this year's British Fashion Awards, carrying off the title of Accessory Designer of the Year for the third year in a row, offers a hat which is more like a whirlwind of screeching pink feathers than a simple chapeau.

Above right: top, £102; skirt, £95, Bella Freud, Liberty, Regent St, London W1; Pellicano, South Molton St, London W1. Nylon rose sheer tights, £3.50, Pretty Polly Shoes, £250, Manolo Blahnik, 49-51 Old Church St, London

Above left: suit, £795, Hardy Amies, 14 Savile Row, London (tel: 071 734 2436). Shoes, £169, Gina, 189 Sloane St, London SW1

Above centre: sweater, £278; skirt, £450, Amanda Wakeley, 80 Fulham Rd, London SW3

Left: tunic, £249; trousers, £249, Roland Klein, 7-9 Tryon St, London SW3; Harrods, Knightsbridge

Pale pink suede loafers by Gucci (more a luxury than a necessity) are still coveted by the style cognoscenti, while their patent salmon-pink slippers with white piped trim are already setting pulses racing.

Perhaps the easiest way to wear the shade this season is a sweater in fluffy angora, or mohair. These are available at every price range. From Katharine Hammett to Miss Selfridge, Corinne Cobson to Top Shop. The simple twinset can always be found in the candybox colour.

For the more daring, lingerie takes a leap into the night, mimicking the pretty party dresses of Gianni Versace, all lace and frothy silk. Tiny slips, trimmed with lace, can be teamed with sheer chiffon trousers, or worn, more modestly, on top of a long, bias-cut evening skirt, or slinky jersey palazzo pants. Invest in something special from Bradleys. La Perla or Janet Reger, or search second-hand stores for war-time utility underwear. Bias-cut shoestring-strap slips are invariably manufactured in the palest peachy pink slipper satin, or silk. Authentic, of the moment, and certainly far, far prettier than the dress foisted upon poor Ms Ringwald.



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Matthew Parris



■ The media are intent on composing a bloodcurdling fable of political decline and fall — and if the facts don't fit...

Golly. Well, what more can you say? Love-children, nude models, double beds in France, stockings, death ... can ever a Valentine's Day morning have been so defamed by mocking echoes of the thing it was meant to celebrate?

The weeks past have become like a bad dream. Symbols and images — innocent or playful and snatched from ordinary experience — are whirled around distorted, thrust before us in a grotesque parody of love, honour and public duty. I keep trying to wake up.

At times like these, keeping a grip on reality becomes a full-time job. It is as though a tide were sweeping everyone away. You dig your toes into the shingle, but the water's rising, the current is strong and even people you respect are starting to drift.

The will to sanity weakens. Every urge is to let go and float.

Where is the current taking us? There is a destination, if we float. Editors and newshounds do not "know" it, of course; the media are a miscellany and incapable of conspiracy, and there is no conscious agreement to impel the nation to an arranged place. Something more elusive powers them.

A folk dream, a remembered fable, is their template, their unconscious blueprint. It is the image of the fall of Babylon, the last days of Louis XVI, *le déluge*, the Flood. You will understand me if you remember that Dali painting of great elephants on stilts-like legs carrying thrones, cities, emperors and palaces, stumbling blindly across a landscape in which, at their feet, a bearded John the Baptist holds out a cross to bring them down.

The plot to which the media are working is the story of pride coming before a fall, of hubris and Nemesis. They feel (and they believe it strikes a chord with the nation) that power has gone to the Government's head; that the Tories have had things their way too long and become overweening. Spurred by this sentiment, they have discerned, or constructed, a picture of Civil Service collusion, official insolence, and ministers and MPs careless of the old proprieties and doing just as they damn well please.

To this supposed ancient regime the day of judgment must come, they murmur, and cannot come too soon. But how soon? At this point the facts get in the way. Good plot, but where's the evidence? There isn't an election for some years, the Opposition is a waste of time, the economy's picking

up, and nothing is going spectacularly wrong with the implementation of government policy. Whither, then, our fable?

Sex now enters, to save the storyline. If a picture can be built up of secret sin and internal rot; if tales of private waywardness and profligacy can be verified; if the camera can then move one step further to hint at perversion, despair and personal collapse, then the stage is set much as it was for the fall of Nero or for Marie Antoinette. The insinuation is this: an administration is poised to collapse under the weight of its own iniquity.

Precisely how this collapse is actually to occur is not thought through and may not need to be. Resignations, sackings, suicides, failure of morale, *saute qui peut* ... dark hints are made about comparisons with the Profumo affair and the last months of the Macmillan administration. Perhaps they'll all just quit voluntarily. Perhaps they'll stagger despairingly on, losing by-elections until some Commons storm or other defeats them in a confidence motion?

No matter. At this stage in the plot there is only one imperative: to keep feeding the immediate drama with fresh "news". Almost anything will do, however slight, however tangentially related to other events. You just preface it with that ever-handy tool of a journalist and trying to stiffen his copy with a doubtful association between unrelated events: the phrase "in the wake of".

"In the wake of", of course, really only means "later in time" but carries with it the hint that the later event was caused by, or linked to, or is yet another example of, the former. The hint is too slight to require substantiation, but strong enough to convey the impression that this news is part of a developing story.

In the wake of Stephen Milligan's death last week the editor of a gossip magazine rang to invite me to lunch. "Oh," he said, "but we would have discussed that appalling story about an affair between you and ... (and here he named an unnamed Tory MP)."

I have never had a liaison of any sort with this or any other MP. One can do better. But can't you just see the story?

"In the wake of an MP's macabre death last week, and weekend allegations about another Tory's affair with a model, gay former Tory MP Matthew Parris yesterday denied stories..." This ode may be unstoppable.

The weeks past have become a bad dream. Images are whirled around in a grotesque parody of love, honour and public duty.

The reasons given for closing leading London hospitals are classic cases of official lunacy

The weekend before last all the intensive-care beds in St Bartholomew's Hospital were occupied. The accident and emergency department telephoned round London to find such a bed for an emergency case. The only one they could find was at Guy's Hospital. Both Barts and Guy's are to close as hospitals on their present sites under the plans of the Department of Health. Of course, a single case — however symbolic — does not prove anything, but it questions the argument for the closures, which is, put simply, that London has too many hospital beds.

On Thursday, Virginia Bottomley made her second statement on London hospitals in the Commons, announcing among other decisions the closure of the Guy's site. On December 15 she had made a similar announcement, put out under the strange heading, "Making London Better", of the intention to close St Bartholomew's Smithfield site, ending 370 years of medical history. Admittedly the policy on Barts seems to be wobbling. The "phased concentration of services at Whitechapel" of December 15 has become "the future location of services across the three sites" of February 10.

The closure policy has been self-contradictory. The new Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, with its huge cost overruns, was built in the early 1990s when it had been policy for more than ten years to close a major London hospital. The new building at Guy's, which will now never be used for its intended purpose, cost £140 million. That will be thrown away. I do not attack Mrs Bottomley, several Secretaries of State, including Kenneth Clarke and William Waldegrave, have presided over this policy. But they are powerless madhouses; they sit before the howdah, while the elephant of the Department of Health tramples its chosen path.

Last Thursday the elephant made a mistake. Attached to the Secretary of State's statement was a page headed "Key Facts". They provide the department's justification for the policy. Let us examine these "key facts".

"Hospitals. Overall, London is served by 43 major acute hospitals with over 250 beds each — far more than any other major city." Of course, London is much bigger than any other major city in Britain. Does London have more major acute hospitals proportionate to population than an American medical centre such as Boston?

"Beds. Inner London has 3.7 acute hospital beds for every 1,000 people. The national average is 2.4 (1990-91). London's teaching hospitals average length of stay was 15 per cent above that for provincial teaching hospitals in 1991-92." All centres of medical excellence have more acute hospital beds than the national average, because they treat more serious cases from outside their immediate area. In any case the national average of 2.4 is well below the West European average, and is probably too low for proper health care. Length of stay depends partly on the seriousness of the condition and on support in the community. A 15 per cent variance could be more than accounted for by these factors alone.

"Resources. The King's Fund report on London's health services stated that London has 15 per cent of the population, but receives 20 per cent of the NHS spending. The average cost per case (1991-92) in

inner London teaching hospitals was 44 per cent higher than provincial teaching hospitals. There are twice as many consultants per head in London as elsewhere." Take the last point first. There are probably 20 times as many barristers per head in London as elsewhere. Must David Pannick be compelled to live in Milton Keynes? There are far more Egyptian mummies per head in London than elsewhere. Is the British

as for the arts, or politics, or law, or banking, or countless other activities. Such a metropolis will have a quite different pattern of resources and functions from non-metropolitan areas. The question is not whether such cities should be different, but in what ways, and to what degree. Simple London reductionism is nonsensical, though regional policy is not.

"Patient Flows. For inner London's non-SHA (Special Health Authority) hospitals, approximately two-thirds only of their patients are inner London residents. For SHA hospitals, only one-third of patients are inner London residents." This contradicts the earlier "facts" which suggest London has more than its fair share of hospitals. It shows that people from outside London come to London for medical treatment; that is hardly a surprise as they have been doing so since at least the 12th century. Barts' first recorded patient was an Essex man, referred by Essex practitioners. All great medical centres attract difficult cases from far and wide. People come to London, but they also go to Houston, Texas, or Boston or the Mayo Clinic. People from hundreds of miles away go to Bath to be treated for rheumatic diseases. Why not?

Such centres always attract consultants, and create extra medical activity and research. The department's assumption, made clear in this fact sheet, is that medical activity ought to be spread evenly over the country. That never has been and never will

be the case. Indeed modern high-tech medicine requires investment which can only be afforded in a small number of centres. Investment costs impose centralisation. Of course London has its own problems, including the need for rationalisation of hospital specialisations. Because London general practices is difficult and expensive it is less well developed than in the rest of the country. The department is right to attend to that, though the Londoners' tradition of turning to the hospital rather than the GP is not in itself objectionable. The Government has set up its internal market, and in this case could let the internal market decide. If Guy's and Barts, with their very strong brand names, can draw patients from all over the country, and can attract large charitable donations for new medical facilities, that justifies their survival. Let them compete as independent trusts to serve the medical needs of their patients; close them only if the patients do not come to them.

The department's policy is radically flawed, and in several ways. It threatens, as happened tragically in mental health, to close hospitals before the alternatives are in place. It throws away, as at Guy's and potentially at Barts, expensive ultra-modern facilities. It assumes that a metropolis must not act as a metropolis. It is supported by an almost idiotic set of unexamined "key facts", based on egalitarian regional assumptions which have nothing to do with patient welfare. It has been driven for decades by professional bureaucratic lobbying. It neglects the whole question of excellence in medical education, or exceptional quality of care. It files in the face of the current shortage of London hospital beds, and of the natural pattern of investment in high-technology medicine. We should spare the madhouse, but we should shoot this crazy elephant.

Mad elephants can ruin your health

William Rees-Mogg

Museum to be raided and a mummy given to every city with a population of more than 100,000? There are more operatic tenors in London than elsewhere. Must they go and sing in Shepton Mallet?

These are unexamined assumptions. The fact that there are more consultants in London tells one nothing about whether there are too many or too few. Nor does the figure for the average cost per case mean anything unless one knows the breakdown of costs, including London property costs, and the proportion of complex and grave cases. The general figures are distorted by non-Londoners using London's facilities.

London is a metropolis, for medi-

Cut down in no man's land

Reality mocks our foreign-policy posturing, says Peter Riddell

Britain is in danger of having a lowest common denominator foreign policy. Halfhearted measures are adopted to maintain international solidarity and to keep the Tory Party united. But the national interest is not advanced, allies are unimpressed and the party remains divided. Britain's anguished involvement in Bosnia, culminating in the Government's reluctant agreement to the Nato ultimatum on Sarajevo, is only the most extreme example.

For the past 30 years, British foreign policy has been based on a boxing metaphor: that this country should punch above its weight in the world. Douglas Hurd epitomises that approach: the unflappable Foreign Secretary internationally respected for his judgment. If he can no longer behave like Palmerston, he can perhaps be an Eden or a Lord Home. On this view, Britain is not just a middle-sized European country. It has global interests. Britain remains a nuclear power, has a permanent seat on the Security Council, and is a member of the Group of Seven. John Major still hobnobs with superpower leaders — he flies to Moscow later today and to Washington in two weeks' time. All this is comforting for both diplomats and the public. But reality is catching up with the pretence.

Britain's ability to deliver its punch, and its influence in Europe, have depended, crucially, on American support. But that has changed. The end of the Cold War produced a more detached attitude in Washington. That was apparent before the election of Bill Clinton. Baroness Thatcher recalls in her memoirs "the relative tilt of American foreign policy against Britain", and towards Germany, by the Bush Ad-



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

ministration until the Gulf war. The coolness, and at times indifference, of the Clinton Administration worries officials in London. The Tories' clumsy intervention in the 1992 campaign soured relations. But more important has been a switch of attention towards Asia and Germany, and also to domestic matters. Close contacts continue between London and Washington, but Britain's voice is no longer heeded so often. That was underlined two weeks ago when Gerry Adams was granted a visa to enter America: domestic political needs counted far more than British objections.

Yet just as the American relationship has become more fragile, Britain remains unsure about its European role. The much trumpeted negotiating triumph at Maastricht in Decem-

ber 1991 was justified in largely negative terms when the Bill implementing the treaty was pushed through the Commons. Mr Hurd can argue that British goals on the single market, enlargement, co-operation on foreign and home affairs and subsidiarity have been advanced. But Britain cannot be described as at the heart of Europe when it has opt-outs on monetary union and the social charter. To minimise Tory splits ahead of the Euro-elections, Mr Major has adopted a nationalist and anti-British stance. This will not really satisfy the Euro-sceptics while infuriating the pro-Europeans and other EU countries. Britain's European policy will be dictated by the

needs of Tory Party management until the next election, and risks being both incoherent and ineffective.

Bosnia has highlighted this sense of drift. There is a strong case for the Government's analysis. The conflict is primarily a civil war that cannot be halted by other countries unless they commit ground troops on a scale which their voters will not support. Britain's interest lies in preventing the war from spreading, providing humanitarian aid, and assisting a peaceful settlement. Britain has been active in all three areas, as shown by the latest forceful efforts of Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose in Sarajevo.

This policy has not, however, been pursued consistently. The Government has been pushed into agreeing measures largely to prevent divisions

with its allies, not because it believes they will work. Britain acquiesced in the recognition of Croatia, despite its own fears, to avoid an open split with Germany at a time when London was seeking Bonn's support over the Maastricht treaty. Germany would probably have gone ahead anyway, but the recognition of Croatia, and then Bosnia, was damaging. Britain has gone along with repeated threats of military action without, until now, showing any intention of implementing them. Admittedly, Europe has been disunited, and with America regarding the conflict as primarily Serbian aggression against Bosnia, the chances of effective pressure have been low. But a credible warning 18 months ago might have had some deterrent effect.

Britain backed the latest Nato ultimatum primarily to avoid an open breach with America. Ministers were reassured by Mr Clinton's commitment at the Nato summit in Brussels a month ago about maintaining a sizeable American military presence in Europe, but feared that this could be questioned again in Congress if Nato failed to take a tough line now. The decision on air strikes had become a test case for Nato's willingness to act in the post-Cold War era. Moreover, British fears about retaliation were undermined by the shift of France, with even more forces in Bosnia, in favour of air strikes. So the Government has been left merely following America and France.

Diplomacy often involves such compromises for the sake of alliance unity, as when the Wilson government refrained from criticising America's policy on Vietnam. Maintaining a common front was justified then in view of the Soviet threat. Even now, the priority is still to keep the Americans in Europe. The Government is right on that. Mr Hurd has offered a reasonable defence of each step of policy, whether on Maastricht or Bosnia. But the overall effect is confusing. Britain is uncertain about America and wary about Europe, where its future lies. Instead of punching above its weight, Britain looks more like a nervous second on the edge of the ring.

Really beastly

IF THERE isn't a law against Beast-beating, it will be for the Beast of Boleyn. The hitherto forthright Dennis Skinner, is beginning to look in urgent need of being designated a protected species. Having been wound up (quite literally) by a fellow Labour backbencher last week, Skinner has now suffered a mauling in a more familiar quarter.

This spat took place at the BBC's Bush House, where Skinner had been invited to discuss trade union power for a forthcoming programme in the *What If?* series for Radio 4. The BBC's choice of opponent was nothing if not provocative — that hammer of the prim unions, Eddy Shah. Suffice it to say, the pair did not get on.

At one point things got so heated in the tiny interview room that Shah stormed out. Only the interviewer's diplomacy persuaded him to return. But again the exchange degenerated into an extraordinary series of slurs and accusations, culminating in Shah claiming Skinner was being racist. Skinner ridicules

the suggestion but uncharacteristically refuses to discuss the row. Shah, however, admits the interview was lively. "It developed into farce and we didn't manage to discuss the unions," he says. "The studio was the size of a closet and we were almost sitting on each other's laps."

The BBC, which kept its tape-recorders whirring as Shah and Skinner went at each other, is delighted. "Never have I come across such a strong interview," says Ian Bell, the producer. "We have been left with the hottest piece of digital tape around." Not surprisingly, the contenders left the studio by different routes. One by the stairs, the other by lift.

● Despite yet another reverse, back to basics is not a complete disaster. The *Back to Basics* nightclub in Leeds, which plays in *hordes* every Saturday night, has recently been nominated as club of the year in the international dance awards run by Kiss FM, the Disco Mix Club and the

Dance Aid Trust. The club was founded in November 1992 in reaction to the "rave scene", says manager David Beer. "We wanted to get back to the clubbing values of having a good time. I think we've had a lot more success than Mr Major — but then our basics are very different from his."

Once more... THE English Shakespeare Company, it was announced last week, is to close not just as a touring company, but completely. However, there may be life for Michael Bogdanov and Co after the final curtain.

What light through gender window breaks? Luke Rigney, ESC's chairman, emphasises that much is dependent on raising sufficient funding. "But we're optimistic. If it comes off it will be ironic, as it will be a case of life after death for the ESC."

Hey, a sprightly octogenarian, says of the film: "It may be low budget but it will certainly be impressive. Shakespeare had a rampant love-life. I know all about his early escapades up in Stratford with the girls."



DIARY

Tentative plans are afoot to involve the actors in a film about Shakespeare's life. Bogdanov, artistic director, has joined forces with D.F. Productions to work on a project provisionally titled *Dark Lady*. The screenplay will be based on years of work by the academic Colin Hey, and promises much ado about Shakespeare's personal life.

● Everyone to confront a problem, head-on. Bryan Gould kicks off the first Hair Growers' Race at London's Ritz Hotel today. The year-long competition is sponsored by Natural Hair Products, which makes the equipment that suspends Gould from his ankles for three minutes a day. Gould already claims a 50 per cent reduction in the size of his infamous bald patch. But surely moving to New Zealand counts as cheating.

Et tu, Quintin?

IF THE teaching of classics is withering elsewhere, it is in splendid heart at Eton. Saturday saw the reopening of Montague James Schools as the home of the classics department, after a lavish refurbishment. On hand to open the build-

ing was Lord Hailsham, who confessed to a touch of nerves. "I don't really know a great deal about the workings of classics at Eton any more. My own classics are as rusty as an old sword in a scabbard." But he flattered to deceive — addressing the assembled dignitaries in fluent Latin for some minutes.

But did it fall on deaf ears? Not a bit — replying for Eton was Alastair Christie, captain of the school, who held forth in flawless Latin for fully five minutes. The performance impressed Hailsham, who recalled an early St Andrew's Day effort at classical graffiti on the lavatory wall. "Floreat gens togata." Or keep your togas off the rose bushes.

Winged

THE daredevil Duchess of Beaufort may have looped her last loop. After swooping over her Badminton home in a stunt plane last week to raise money for Bristol Age Care, the 64-year-old Duchess has decided she has tempted fate for the last time.

Her new resolve comes shortly after her return from gorilla trekking in Uganda. "I



Shulman's loss is Attallah's gain

Will you be my Valentine?

NAIM ATTALLAH, businessman and benefactor of the literary world, has given himself an admirable present for St Valentine's Day — new PA. Attallah has lured the personable Henrietta Garnett away from her longstanding boss Alexandra Shulman, editor of *Vogue*. But

relations between Asprey's, where Attallah is chief executive, and *Vogue* remain cordial — according to Attallah. "Henrietta will work as personal assistant to me, and Alexandra is being very sweet. She agreed Henrietta would have a different scope because we do everything here."

spent two weeks there and it was marvellous. However, one morning we spent three hours trekking up a slippery mountain to see the gorillas.

and as I'm not terribly fit it nearly finished me off. More hair-raising than looping the loop? "Oh definitely. At least then I was sitting down."



MESSAGE TO MOSCOW

Mr Major has a chance to win support on Bosnia

John Major arrives in Moscow on a difficult mission. Ostensibly his visit is a purely bilateral affair, reciprocating President Yeltsin's triumphant visit to London in 1992. But the prime minister must use the opportunity to act as an unofficial ambassador of the Western Alliance in order to explain, mollify and cajole. Moscow's opposition could yet wreck Nato's new-found resolution over Bosnia. Today's Security Council meeting will show whether the Russians are prepared to offer a political shield to the Bosnian Serb army which has already ordered a halt to the surrender of Serb heavy weapons. Andrei Kozyrev, the foreign minister, indicated at the weekend that Russia could accept air strikes "as a last resort." But does such accommodation from an isolated liberal have the sanction of President Yeltsin? His mood is uncertain: President Clinton, after getting an engaged signal for several days, could do little on the telephone to win over the Russian leader. It is now up to Mr Major to explain Western thinking face to face.

There are few issues Mr Major can bring to help the embattled Russian leader in his dealing with the truculent Duma. The West can neither predict nor guide the outcome in Russia. But he can point out to Mr Yeltsin the obvious connection in Western minds between Bosnia and turmoil within the former Soviet Union. He should warn him of growing Western concern at Russia's cat-and-mouse tactics in subverting unstable regimes in the "near abroad." The Western powers have not yet themselves decided what degree of Russian activity in the former Soviet republics can be tolerable, but they are increasingly being urged not to give Moscow carte blanche. The test case is the Baltics. The symbolism of Mr Hurd's visit to Riga should be plain: it is to warn against any attempt to reincorporate the three small nations. Mr Major is a patient and polite negotiator; but here is a need also for him to be blunt.

Paradoxically, he may be able to turn this confusion to his advantage. He must perforce admit that his government, like Mr Yeltsin's, has serious doubts about air strikes. In doing so, he can convince him that Britain's backing for the Nato strategy is dictated not by a blind faith in the use of force but by the sorry realisation that the political balance has changed. There can be no bemoaning in such discussions. The

Russians resent being dictated to; their chagrin stems in part from the perception that the West has used its new-found friendship to enforce its will at the United Nations, lay down terms for economic aid, demand regular account of Russia's stumbling lunge towards democracy. A quiet British tone and frankness over the *Realpolitik* of alliance politics and UN credibility may be more convincing than bluster.

The conversation in Moscow will be held in wintry political weather. The fleeting sun of reform has been eclipsed; old thinking, old economics, old suspicions now cloud the prospects for change. The prime minister will want to know whether the lapse back into command economics and nationalist posturing is tactical or fundamental. Is the burgeoning market capitalism he will see in Nizhni Novgorod a harbinger of provincial enterprise or merely an isolated exception? Has change put down roots that British know-how can nurture, or is Russia merely muddling through the prelude to a new authoritarianism?

There are few issues Mr Major can bring to help the embattled Russian leader in his dealing with the truculent Duma. The West can neither predict nor guide the outcome in Russia. But he can point out to Mr Yeltsin the obvious connection in Western minds between Bosnia and turmoil within the former Soviet Union. He should warn him of growing Western concern at Russia's cat-and-mouse tactics in subverting unstable regimes in the "near abroad." The Western powers have not yet themselves decided what degree of Russian activity in the former Soviet republics can be tolerable, but they are increasingly being urged not to give Moscow carte blanche. The test case is the Baltics. The symbolism of Mr Hurd's visit to Riga should be plain: it is to warn against any attempt to reincorporate the three small nations. Mr Major is a patient and polite negotiator; but here is a need also for him to be blunt.

THE FIRST MILE

Israel and the PLO approach the end of the first stage

Five tense months have elapsed since the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Distrust has magnified each obstacle. Even after the signing of last week's partial agreement in Cairo, the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, cut short the applause. Striking the definition note to which observers have grown accustomed, he said that a month, at least, would be needed before the conclusion of a comprehensive protocol. Administrative and fiscal "modalities" still remain to be resolved.

The Cairo accords have, however, dealt with the most intractable items on the agenda. They cover the security issues concerning the control of border crossings, protection for Jewish settlements and, although a final decision has been left for inclusion in the protocol to come, the size of Jericho. The text reveals why the negotiators have crawled when they were expected to run. It makes explicit provision for such minutiae as which vehicle — Israeli or Palestinian — will lead which patrol in which sector. The Palestinian negotiators have finally come to grips with what Professor Edward Said, their *savant* of the diaspora, calls "the discipline of detail".

Israel's approach has seemed to many in the Palestinian team maddeningly rabbinical and legalistic. But the PLO has much to gain by this insistence on covering every practical eventuality. The handover of these territories to Palestinian administration will inevitably give rise to disputes, and it is in the interest of both sides to minimise in advance the scope for misunderstandings.

The PLO leader, Yassir Arafat, has, however, settled on what his critics will see as Israeli terms. The agreement accords to Israel absolute control over external security

and gives it the right to refuse entry into Gaza and Jericho. The PLO will man border controls; but Israel will exercise an "invisible", but firm, supervisory role, based on modern technological methods. Jewish settlements will be under absolute Israeli control and Israeli security forces appear to have the right of "hot pursuit" into Palestinian territory. Israel's concessions to the PLO have been rather more symbolic.

The agreement is a triumph for Mr Rabin, whose unyielding concern with security has enabled him to claw back much of the domestic support he lost when he signed the original Declaration. His closest advisers in the military reinforced his own cautious, even hawkish, instincts. In this, he is at odds with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, who has been more sympathetic to the PLO's need to be able to claim that it has won, in Jericho and Gaza, some of the attributes of statehood. It was this concern for political appearances, as much as Israeli textual fastidiousness, which made for the slow pace of the negotiations.

But slow does not mean sure in all respects. Much ground has been lost, in Gaza and among Palestinians generally, to extremist opponents of peace. Mr Rabin, more staff officer than statesman, erred in failing to make even symbolic concessions — such as a token withdrawal of a small number of troops, or the release of a few Palestinian detainees — before the Cairo agreement. A strengthened Hamas is not in Israel's interests; nor is, at present, a weakened Mr Arafat who, for all his monumental flaws, represents secular Palestinian forces. Israel might have had its reasons for hastening slowly over this difficult first mile, but Mr Rabin must now quicken the caravan's pace.

THE LOST SCREAM

The theft of a famous painting is a loss for all mankind

The theft of Edward Munch's masterpiece *The Scream* is a crime as embarrassing as it is mysterious. The case with which a thief climbed in the window, took the uninsured painting, handed it to his accomplice and made off with no explanation beyond a taunt thanking the National Gallery for its poor security has already been broadcast around the world on a grainy security camera videotape. On the day that the world marvelled at the daring of the Norwegian ski-jumper flying through the Lillehammer sky with the Olympic torch ablaze, it was also marvelling at the daring of the art robbers and the naivety of Norwegian trust in the safety of its national treasures.

The mystery lies in the motives of the thieves. The painting, an archetypal representation of fear, angst, oppression and paranoia, has long been revered as the quintessential premonition of twentieth-century man's mental anguish — even if executed by a morose nineteenth-century artist on the northern rim of the European continent. It has had a deep influence on the development of Expressionism. It has been imitated again and again. It has even been used, along with the Mona Lisa, as the basis for advertisements: recognition indeed of its compelling message. Who could sell such a painting? Where could it be hidden? Who would dare receive such stolen property,

unless it was an obsessive millionaire admirer of Munch, ready to risk all for a furtive midnight peep into his darkened cellar where the loon might be hidden? And even if that was its destiny, would not the painting, like Poe's tell-tale heart, scream out at every glimpse?

Paintings are unique, but so often are the best reproduced nowadays that they appear almost commonplace. Does Van Gogh's chair not hang on a thousand staircase walls? Does not the Laughing Cavalier twinkle from the pages of every book on Western art? Nevertheless, the sight of the original is always startling and often exciting. That is why crowds throng to exhibitions. That is why auctioneers have made paintings one of the most valuable commodities ever fashioned by man. That is why the loss of any fragment of our artistic heritage — by fire, flood or theft — is often mourned more than the loss of human life.

The Scream may soon surface again, cut out of its frame and abandoned, or tracked down like a kidnapped child. So far there are few clues or precedents for such a valuable theft. There may be a political motive, a perverse desire to attract attention to this or that cause at the start of the winter Olympics. There is plenty of suffering in the world to cause the primeval scream. But theft does nothing to relieve this century's suffering.

Bosnia: innocents or aggressors?

From Dr Salah Ez

Sir, In the spring of last year, after the horrors in Srebrenica outraged the world, an agreement to demilitarise the town and its surroundings was implemented; the Bosnians defending the city reluctantly handed the few weapons they had to the UN, while the Serbs reneged. No international action was taken to force the Serbs to comply and their savage siege continued.

Now, after last Saturday's massacre in Sarajevo, Nato has decided that the Bosnian government should "place its heavy weapons in Sarajevo under UN control" (report, February 10). This not only means that the victims and their killers are being treated equally by the supposedly "civilised" members of Nato but, more important, that the legitimate Bosnian government is being asked to give up sovereignty in its capital and hand its weapons to an international body that has betrayed it on numerous occasions over the past two years and whose dominating powers, particularly the French and the British, have been pressuring the Bosnians to submit to aggression and surrender.

Your report (earlier editions) also describes General Sir Michael Rose's ceasefire agreement as helping to "pull off a coup". But a similar agreement was reached last summer on Mount Igman that led to the Serbs withdrawing a few units, only to replace them later.

For Europe to allow a state that has been and still is espousing democracy and pluralism to be devoured by two fascist regimes will mark the end of European civilisation and an irreversible return to the "basics" of medieval European barbarity.

Yours faithfully,
S. EZZ,
University of Oxford,
Department of Materials,
Parks Road, Oxford,
February 10.

From Mr George Tintor

Sir, You note that American and Russian "weaponry is responsible in large measure for [Afghanistan's] anarchy" (leading article, "Great game of death", February 9). The mistakes of the Afghan conflict, however, appear to have been forgotten by those in the West who clamour for the selective lifting of the Yugoslav arms embargo in favour of the Bosnian Muslims.

Lifting the arms embargo will do nothing to solve the three-sided political dispute in Bosnia and will only intensify and prolong the conflict. Were the Bosnian Muslims to receive weapons from their foreign supporters in addition to the clandestine arms shipments they already receive) the Croats and Serbs would certainly turn to their foreign friends for more arms.

Experience shows that pouring arms into a civil war ensures its continuation. From Afghanistan to Angola, terrible wars have been sustained by the "good" intentions of foreign arms suppliers.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE TINTOR,
52-62 Bishopsgate, EC2,
February 9.

From Miss Nora Bellof

Sir, Mr D. W. Berry (letter, February 10) is right to ask, on the former Yugoslavia, "Are we being given a true picture of this terrible civil war?"

As he points out, one of your own correspondents acknowledges that it was the Bosnian Muslims who initiated most of the recent exchanges of gunfire around Sarajevo. But a fuller account of what is really going on is available in the final report of the Belgian general Francis Brismont who, at the end of 1993, asked to be released of his Sarajevo command. *The Guardian* (February 7) quotes him as having said:

In Sarajevo the Bosnian army provokes the Serbs on a daily basis. Since the middle of December, the Bosnian army jumped another step by launching heavy infantry attacks from Sarajevo to the Serb-held suburbs of the city.

The Bosnian army attacks the Serbs from a safe area, the Serbs retaliate mainly on the confrontation line, and the Bosnian army accuses Unprofor of not protecting them against Serb aggression and appeals for air strikes against the Serb gun positions.

Sincerely,
NORA BELLOF,
11 Belsize Road, NW5,
February 10.

Pegasus bridge

From Mr D. A. Kerven

Sir, I cannot agree with Mr L. David Brook (letter, February 7; other letters, February 11) that no markers, radar or other aids were used at the capture of Pegasus bridge in Normandy on June 6, 1944. I recall that my unit, No 1 platoon of the 22nd Independent Parachute Company, set up a Eureka transmitter, low-intensity lights and marker strips on the dropping and landing zone at Ranville church, about a mile from the bridge.

My diary records that we were transmitting a homing signal shortly afterwards.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. KERVEN,
Ground Floor Flat,
1 Haddleigh Road,
Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Superstores in town and country

From Mr Alfred Morris, MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe (Labour)

Sir, John Gummer, Environment Secretary, acknowledges the damaging effect of out-of-town shopping centres on the wellbeing of town centres (report, February 8). Yet by maintaining government support for the proposed out-of-town shopping centre at Dimplington, Greater Manchester, he declines to put precept into practice.

Covering some one million square feet, this development would do untold damage to Manchester's city centre. The minister has only to look at the huge Merry Hill development in Dudley to see the damage it has inflicted, both on the town centre and in terms of unemployment.

The planning permission for Dimplington, which was granted last year, is still subject to appeal and remains a lingering reminder of the misguided retail development policy of the 1980s. It is time the minister was as good as his word and withdrew his support for Dimplington.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED MORRIS,
House of Commons,
February 11.

From Councillor Peter C. Gray

Sir, There is growing recognition that many urban areas cannot accommodate the projected unfettered use of the private car and that such uses as major shopping and offices need to be located where public transport is a real option and multi-purpose trips are viable.

Authorities are still besieged by prospective developers of out-of-centre shopping malls and superstores. The Secretary of State and his inspectors, despite their stated intention of resurrecting the smaller town centre supermarket or new convenience store formats, will have to adjudicate on many more out-of-town schemes in the months ahead.

Town centres can meet the needs of our communities. New air-conditioned malls with efficient floorspace and servicing can be successfully integrated into all but a few centres. With care and co-operation between the local planning authority, traders, landowners and investors, modern shopping centres can complement and blend in with historic towns to produce characterful, distinctive centres rather than bland malls.

This has been successfully achieved in Kingston upon Thames, where both a John Lewis department store and the million-square-foot Bentall Centre have been sensitively inte-

grated within the existing fabric. In the Bentall Centre we have a new department store opening into a four-storey mall which could accommodate the nave of St Paul's Cathedral. Yet by building behind the historic facade of the former Bentalls store, a familiar landmark, the development does not overpower the town centre and achieves a sense of continuity.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. GRAY (Chairman,
Development Committee),
Royal Borough of
Kingston upon Thames,
Members' Room, Guildhall,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

From the Managing Director
of Moss Bros Group plc

Sir, As a retailer who operates in towns, cities and increasingly in regional shopping centres, I welcome John Gummer's "new strategy" for British shopping. But can he "deliver" town and city centres which serve and satisfy the whole community?

I was in Birmingham yesterday, where a local businessman explained that Stourbridge, a town hard hit by the Merry Hill development (where parking is free), had just decided to charge for its town centre parking.

Neglect of our great cities (Birmingham is just one example), the absence of clear direction and vision from government, and the cavalier and arrogant approach of so many councils have caused this blight.

Yours sincerely,
R. J. GEE,
Group Managing Director,
Moss Bros Group plc,
8 St John's Hill, SW11,
February 8.

From Mrs Angela M. Taylor

Sir, I shopped at various places in Halesworth (Suffolk) this morning in the crisp, car-free air, to the sound of footsteps and the murmur of voices for superb fish, specialist cheeses, green grocers from Leeds to lemon-grass, all served with charm and lively talk and all as yearned for in Margot Norman's article ("Bring back Arkwright's corner shop") of February 1. No car-park queues, no check-out queues.

What despair, on learning of a new supermarket being built outside the town! Mr Gummer's epoch-making U-turn has come too late.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. TAYLOR,
Highfields Cottage, The Street,
Thorpe Abbotts, Diss, Norfolk,
February 8.

Treasure trove law

From Mr Andrew Selkirk

Sir, I am sorry to see that our system of treasure trove is once again being maligned (letters, January 28, February 9). In fact it has been doing rather well recently. There have been a number of spectacular hoards, most notably those from Snettisham and Hoxne, which have been properly declared and fully excavated.

It is a triumph for the system, and archaeologists abroad rub their eyes in amazement at our good fortune to have a law that works so stunningly well.

In most other countries, hoards such as these would have vanished into the black market immediately; only one has to look at the so-called Sevso silver hoard, returned by a jury in New York to the Marquess of

Northampton (report, November 9, 1993). We do not even know what country this hoard comes from — let alone its context.

The reason why treasure trove works so well is because it is widely seen to be fair: its essence is the system of rewards worked out by the British Museum in the inter-war period and magnificently run by them ever since.

The new proposals in the Treasure Bill fail to recognise this, and take away all the rights and responsibilities of the landowner, while the explanatory memorandum implies that the rewards will no longer be at market value (the crux of the present system), but will be discretionary.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SELKIRK
(Editor), *Current Archaeology*,
9 Nassington Road, NW3,
February 9.

Parking restrictions

From Superintendent C. M. Leithhead

Sir, Your transport correspondent states (report, February 10): "From July all traffic wardens in London will be employed by local authorities, rather than the police."

No traffic wardens will be employed by local authorities. They will employ parking attendants, who will deal with decriminalised parking, which will be complete by July, and special parking areas.

The Metropolitan Police will continue to employ traffic wardens to enforce the Red Route network and those streets which will still have yellow lines on them until the Red Route network is fully implemented in 1996.

Traffic wardens will also continue

to enforce offences of "causing unnecessary obstruction", "parking within the limits of a pedestrian crossing" and "parking in a dangerous position". The last two offences are endorsable and all three are beyond the scope of local authority parking attendants.

It is the intention of the Metropolitan Police and their traffic warden service to ensure that the Red Route network is successful by bringing a level of enforcement which will induce compliance with the parking restrictions.

Yours sincerely,
C. M. LEITHHEAD,
Metropolitan Police Service,
Headquarters Traffic,
Tintagel House,
Albert Embankment, SE1,
February 10.

Tax burden

From the Director of the
Conservative Research Department

Sir, In his article, "Tax evasion on all sides" (January 26), Simon Jenkins failed to reflect accurately the content of the Conservative Research Department's *Politics Today* (January 1993) on the economy.

A year ago, in response to the question, "Despite all your promises, hasn't the tax burden risen under the Conservatives?", the answer reads:

In 1979, the Conservative Government inherited a substantial PSBR from Labour, even though the economy was at the peak of a cycle. As a result, the tax burden was increased in order to reduce the burden of excess borrowing which had built up. Since 1981, the tax burden has fallen.

The tax burden goes up when the economy grows unless existing tax rates are cut. This is because as real incomes rise more people pay tax, and more pay it at a higher rate. So the only way to bring the tax burden down in the long run is to control public spending

and cut tax rates — which only the Conservative Party is committed to do.

This is quite different from Mr Jenkins's suggestion that our answer was solely that the burden had fallen "since 1981". This document was published before either of the 1993 Budgets. It set out clearly the fact that taxes rose under a Conservative Government during the 1980-81 recession, and in order to bring down unsustainable borrowing inherited from Labour. It is not a great leap forward from that to see that taxes are also having to rise now, after a world recession, in order to bring down borrowing.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW LANSLEY,
Director,
Conservative Research Department,
31 Smith Square, SW1,
January 28.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Hong Kong group needs guarantee

From Lord Bonham-Carter and others

Sir, On July 13, 1993, the House of Lords passed a resolution by 60 votes to 48 to give full British citizenship to members of the non-Chinese ethnic minorities in Hong Kong — about 3,000-5,000 people — who will be without a right of abode elsewhere after July 1, 1997 (report, July 16, 1993). Since the Government took no notice of this clear expression of opinion from all sides of the House, it has been necessary to introduce a private member's Bill to give it legislative effect.

In addition to the signatories of this letter, the Bill has the support of the present governor of Hong Kong, two previous governors, Lord MacLehose of Beoch and Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, the unanimous support of the Hong Kong Legislative Council and that of the select committee on foreign affairs in the last Parliament.

After 1997 members of this minority group will have to rely on British National (Overseas) status, which gives them little more than a travel document providing no right of abode outside Hong Kong. They will have no right to Chinese nationality and will, in the opinion of many eminent authorities — Justice and the International Commission of Jurists for example — be rendered effectively stateless. After two generations their children will lose even the right to British Nationality (Overseas) status.

This is a unique case because what is happening to Hong Kong is without precedent. Hong Kong is not being offered independence, its sovereignty is being transferred to another state of which this particular group, unlike the vast majority of the people of Hong Kong, will have no right to become citizens.

That the Government recognises a particular obligation to these people is made clear by its verbal assurances to take them in, should the worst come to the worst. But, unless the worst does come to the worst, there is no indication they wish to leave Hong Kong or come to this country. They want the ease of mind that will enable them to stay in Hong Kong and go on contributing to the territory, as so many of them and their families have done in the past.

All this small group of people asks is that we provide them with a clear legal status which could in the last resort also be their safety net. Is that not the least we can do? We hope the Government will not seek to oppose the principle underlying this Bill when it reaches the House of Commons.

Yours etc.
BONHAM-CARTER,
BRAMALL,
DUNN,
GLENKATHUR,
MEINTOSH OF HARINGEY,
House of Lords,
February 9.

Labour's intellectuals

From the Earl of Longford

Sir, Anthony Howard, in his arresting article of February 5 ("Labour's missing brains") [also letter, February 9], poses the question, "Where are the socialist academics...?" The answer is surely obvious: on the Labour benches in the House of Lords.

We have five professors: Desal and Plant (mentioned by Anthony Howard), Morris of Castle Morris, Blackstone — now Master of Birkbeck College — and Peston. We have three other distinguished academics: Eastwell, Donoghue and Hollis of Higham. Perhaps I should be allowed to add the names of two former Oxford dons, Harold Wilson and myself, not to mention Jay — Fellow of All Souls.

The list of first-class degrees begins with Healey and Mulley. I can think of Cabinets whose intellectual quality was inferior to one for which the above names would provide a nucleus.

I may be sharply reminded of names I have overlooked.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK LONGFORD,
House of Lords,
February 7.

Safety first

From Mr John L. Jones

Sir, Mrs Ba Miller asks (letter, February 10) why pointsmen need a warning about eating them. My cat used to eat pot plants when he was a kitten. He only stopped when he was old enough to read the instructions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. JONES,
4 Pinewood Close,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
February 10.

Driving upmarket

From Group Captain M. G. Peaker

Sir, I am very proud of my car, a Maestro. Born a British Leyland, it grew into a Rover and has now matured as a BMW.

Didn't it do well!
Yours sincerely,
M. G. PEAKER,
21 Altair Way,
Northwood, Middlesex,
February 7.

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NEWS

Major carries on campaign

John Major is to plough on with his back-to-basics campaign even though he is under growing pressure to drop it in the wake of the latest embarrassing disclosures about Baroness Thatcher's successor as MP for Finchley.

Hartley Booth's resignation over his relationship with his former research assistant has added to the "climate of fear". But neither that nor a poll suggesting that the campaign be abandoned has persuaded ministers. Pages 1, 3

Air strike decision lies with Rose

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, Commander of United Nations forces in Bosnia and architect of a ceasefire which could become the turning point in the siege of Sarajevo, said that he would take the final decision on air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions. Pages 1, 11

Adams moves

Gerry Adams moved another significant step towards rejection of the Anglo-Irish peace initiative when he urged Britain to persuade Northern Ireland's one million Protestants to back a united Ireland. Page 1

Turning detective

Curators at the Victoria and Albert Museum have turned detective after discovering that part of the centrepiece in a furniture exhibition is a fake. Page 1

Ulster funeral

Hundreds of mourners turned out for the funeral in Co Londonderry of Dominic McGlinchey, one of Ulster's most brutal republican paramilitaries. Page 2

Latin class

Oxford University will open up its classics degrees to students without A level Latin to counter the decline in the subject in state schools. Page 2

Parties register

Nineteen parties have registered to take part in the South African elections, and it became clear that the white right wing and the ruling parties of KwaZulu and Bophuthatswana intend to boycott it. Page 13

Double onslaught

The Government will face a double onslaught in Parliament and possible legal action over proposals for a system to compensate victims of crime. Page 7

British police train Palestinian force

Half a century after Britain disbanded the Palestine Police in the closing days of colonial rule, British police officers are returning to help establish a Palestinian force. Ron Compton, chief constable of Nottinghamshire, is expected in Jerusalem to begin training some of the 15,000 Palestinians to be deployed in the occupied territories later this year. Page 13

Illicit influence

The illicit drugs culture has extended its influence. The country cousins of streetwise metropolitan youths are experimenting with cannabis, Ecstasy, LSD and amphetamines. Page 8

EU lobbied

John Major has sent messages to ten fellow Prime Ministers in the European Union asking them to back Sir Leon Brittan as the next President of the European Commission. Page 12

Beatle battle

The battle is on to stage the first live concert by the Beatles in 24 years. As the remaining members head back to the studios, promoters are offering platforms at summer festivals. Page 3

Italian warning

Italy will cease to be a credible European partner if the right-wing alliance led by Silvio Berlusconi wins the general election, Beniamino Andreotta, the Foreign Minister, said. Page 12

British constitution

Britain's unwritten constitution has been admired for its flexibility, adaptability and capacity to survive industrial change, wars, social upheavals and a widening suffrage. Page 9

Horses burnt

Six horses were burnt to death when arsonists set fire to their stables after dousing the animals and bedding with petrol. Page 5



Stella Lam covers her ears during the fireworks in celebration of the Chinese New Year in Chinatown, London yesterday

SPORT

Sliding: Tommy Moe, of the United States, took the blue ribbon event at the Winter Olympics when he beat Kjetil Andre Aamodt by four hundredths of a second in the men's downhill. Page 25

Cricket: Angus Fraser, who cracked a bone in his left hand during England's match with Barbados, is expected to be fit but under-prepared for the first Test with West Indies. Page 23

Football: A Ryan Giggs goal gave Manchester United a 1-0 win in the first leg of their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final tie with Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford. Page 23

BUSINESS

Low profile: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which achieved notoriety under Jacques Attali, is now so low key that some fear the bank's main purpose of funding for Eastern Europe is suffering. Page 44

Inflation rising: Financial markets are likely to concentrate on January inflation, which could rise sharply to 2.6 per cent. Page 44

Names revolt: Lloyd's of London is braced for loss-making names to reject the insurance market's £900 million settlement offer in favour of fighting it out through the courts. Page 41

FEATURES

Intimate note: A love letter is the most potent way to declare oneself. Julia Llewellyn Smith on the hearts trembling in anticipation of today's post. Page 14

In the pink: There is the fear that wearing pink is not for anyone over the age of consent, but the look need not always seem little girly. Page 15

EDUCATION

Dream screens: A revolution that could change the way children learn is under way. John O'Leary on technology. Page 35

ARTS

Unlikely hero: Oskar Schindler is a hero. Yet his own people been reluctant to accept him. Now Steven Spielberg's film, *Schindler's List*, may teach Germans their history. Page 37

Same old story: The advance hype surrounding Channel 4's show, *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*, suggested a brilliant and original broadcasting concept. It turned out to be a straightforward ratings-grabber. Page 37

Belated premiere: At Covent Garden, Tim Albery and Antony McDonald will stage *Chérubin* for the first time in Britain. Page 38

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Emily Barr's friendship with Hartley Booth led to the Tory MP's resignation as parliamentary private secretary to the Foreign Minister. Page 3



Kim Basinger and her husband, Alec Baldwin, exploited their real life marriage to allay public doubts about sex on the screen. Page 10



Tonya Harding has been allowed to compete in the Winter Olympics because the dispute threatened to upstage other competitions. Pages 10, 23, 25

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Better by far

The Tate Gallery's new Picasso show will set a standard unlikely to be matched for years to come, in Britain or anywhere else.

Grasping religion

How insubstantial must the grasp on a religion be, if it has to be propped up by hangings and woundings and beatings and murderings? Bernard Levin on the murder of Bishop Haik Hovsepien-Mehr.

What price pregnancy

What are the long-term implications of the recent awards to pregnant women sacked from the armed forces? Geoffrey Bindman reports.

LIFESTYLES

A shoplifter says she can make up to £1,300 a day. *Cutting Edge: Shops and Robbers* (Channel 4, 9pm). Page 43

OPINION

Message to Moscow

It is now up to Mr Major to explain Western thinking on Bosnia to Mr Yeltsin face to face. There can be no hectoring. The Russians resent being dictated to. Page 17

The first mile

Israel might have had its reasons for hastening slowly over this difficult first mile in negotiations with the Palestinians, but Mr Rabin must now quicken the caravan's pace. Page 17

The lost scream

The theft of Edward Munch's masterpiece *The Scream* is a crime as embarrassing as it is mysterious. There may be a political motive, but theft does nothing to relieve this century's suffering. Page 17

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

Britain is in danger of having a lowest common denominator foreign policy. Half-hearted measures are adopted to maintain international solidarity and to keep the Tory Party united. But the national interest is not advanced, allies are unimpressed and the party remains divided. Page 16

MATTHEW PARRIS

The weeks have become like a bad dream. Symbols... are whirled around, distorted, thrust before us in a grotesque parody of love, honour and public duty. I keep trying to wake up. Page 16

OBITUARIES

William Conrad, actor and film director; Beltran Osorio, 18th Duke of Albuquerque; Lovraj Kumar, petroleum adviser to the Indian government; Rudolf Schwarz, conductor; Johnny Kwango, wrestler. Page 19

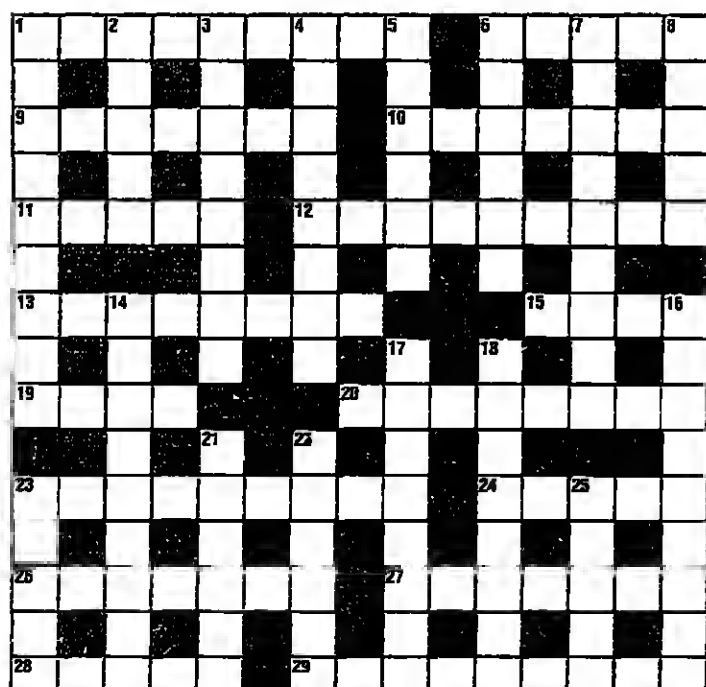
LETTERS

Safety nets for Hong Kong's non-Chinese minority. Page 17

TOPICS

In the past US presidents have avoided open breakdowns in these trade negotiations. This time something has changed. — The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,465



- ACROSS**
- Required to take the long view when over a barrel? (9).
 - Make progress by a foot or two (5).
 - Girl with mountain retreat needs an aerial? (7).
 - Drapery once ironed in eastern Europe? (7).
 - Boundary hit when appeal dismissed gaining advantage (5).
 - Suitable fox for an alfresco meal? (9).
 - Sleeping partner possibly has scope to finish on board (4-4).
 - Utterly shabby appearance (4).
 - Idle fly points to point (4).
 - Broker means to get a rise (3).
 - The high-born finding attraction in lush surroundings (3,6).
 - Setting the tone in sales talk (5).
 - Pleasant facility where opponents meet in harmony (7).
- DOWN**
- Like birds finding forage around ploughed earth (9).
 - Valued crown of turquoise in expensive mounting (5).
 - Daily broadcasts featuring some bright shafts (5).
 - Writings by German count apt to be above one (6).
 - Persistent type needing no introduction takes heart (6).
 - Apology to wage-limbed staff (6).
 - Little drink initially needed to produce Shakespeare perhaps (9).
 - Weapon borne in clan ceremonial (5).
 - Widened road upset perambulation (9).
 - Navigational aid in deserts set up under direction (5,4).
 - Not nearly enough to cover rear of Apache brave (8).
 - Fail to appreciate motorway's value (8).
 - Hymn providing uplift after beginning of prayers (6).
 - Influenced improperly, we'd say (6).
 - Sign liable to be kicked over if duplicated (5).
 - Hardy girl keeping river lock (5).

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Greater London	701
East Angles	702
East of England	703
East of Scotland	704
East of Wales	705
East of Ireland	706
East of France	707
East of Germany	708
East of Spain	709
East of Italy	710
East of Greece	711
East of Turkey	712
East of Russia	713
East of China	714
East of Japan	715
East of Korea	716
East of India	717
East of Australia	718
East of New Zealand	719
East of South America	720
East of Africa	721
East of Europe	722
East of Asia	723
East of Oceania	724
East of Antarctica	725

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Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants.	733
M25 London Orbital only	734
National traffic and roadworks	735
National motorways	736
West Country	737
Wales	738
Midlands	739
East Angles	740
North-east England	741
North-west England	742
Scotland	743
Northern Ireland	744

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly 100 (57°F). Lowest day temp: Buxton, Derbyshire 50 (32°F). Highest rainfall: St Mary's 5.0 in. Lowest rainfall: Buxton 0.1 in.

FORECAST

General: Much of southern and eastern England will have a cloudy day with scattered light snow showers. Later, sleet and snow will become heavier and more prolonged. In south-east England and south Wales, with blizzards in places by midnight. Northwest England and north Wales will be dry and bright for much of the day.

Northern Ireland and western Scotland: There will be scattered light snow showers. It will feel bitterly cold in the fresh easterly wind.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands, E England, Central N England: There will be scattered snow showers. Wind fresh east. Cold. Max 10C (50°F).

Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: Light snow showers will become widespread and heavier later in the day. Fresh east wind. Cold. Max 20C (68°F).

N Wales, W England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Dry, bright spells. Fresh east wind. Cold. Max 20C (68°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: There will be scattered light snow flurries. Wind fresh east to southeast. Cold. Max 20C (68°F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N W Scotland, N Ireland: Dry, sunny spells. Wind fresh southeast. Max 30C (86°F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy. Wind fresh to strong southeast. Max 30C (86°F).

Outlook: Heavy snow and blizzards spreading northeast on Tuesday. It will be milder with rain on Wednesday.

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4

ASABOARD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4

NOON TODAY



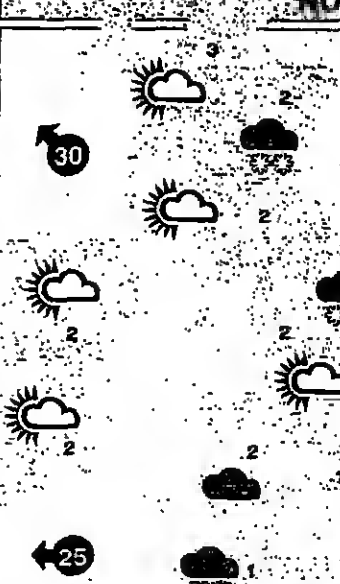
HIGH TIDES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4

CHANGES TO CHART BELOW FROM NOON: HIGH S WILL DRIFT SLOWLY SOUTHWARDS, EVENTUALLY ALLOWING Milder southwesterlies to develop over the British Isles. Low P will move northwards, while low O will drift northeast and fill.



HIGH TIDES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4
Aberdeen	10	SE	100	4

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Norway bares soul in Olympics' honour

Beneath the earth in Norway there exists a secret, mystic people, the *vetter*. They are gentle, shy and peaceful, in harmony with nature. They live in the fantasy and poetry of the Norwegians, and offer in part an explanation of the humanity of the Norwegians themselves.

In the most enchanting Olympic opening ceremony I can recall, Norway shared its secret with the rest of the world. It was as though they were lying on the consultant psychiatrist's couch, and the television cameras had crept in the door. Norway bared its heart, and what we saw was not funny or embarrassing or silly, but one of the fundamental truths of mankind: that we share this earth with creatures

and spirits of which we know not, of which Prospero spoke to us. They are there in the recesses of our imagination, which we discover in childhood and all too often dismiss as unrealistic.

The *vetter* are Norway's conscience as well as their secret culture, and to give their guests a glimpse of this was a brave step. As the rest of the globe tuned in on Saturday, Norway wished simply to say: "This is the way we are, we want you to see and share our sensibilities, to understand us and accept us."

Here was a masque, sat and faded misty-mountain light and gently falling snow, that was itself a fairytale, its unblemished style devoid of pomp or brash presumption,



David Miller sees an enchanting performance herald the launch of the Winter Games in Lillehammer

and fashioned around two ideologies: the perfection of youthful sporting competition, and the fantasies of a peaceful mountain people. For such a day, both the Norwegian organisers and the much criticised International Olympic Committee (IOC) can take immense credit.

The afternoon began like some nineteenth century public holiday, with musicians arriving by pony and sled, wrapped in furs. Dancers swept down the ski-jump slopes, the girls in ankle-

length skirts to join the throng. It was all disarmingly unpretentious, including the arrival of the royal family, the king's presence being greeted like that of a benign uncle. As the curtain of darkness closed across the surrounding valley, the 66 teams strode into the stadium, the Bosnians with their symbolic white flag and simple emblem. The British were so formal in dark overcoats they looked as if they were on the way to the office.

There was heartfelt applause for Juan Antonio

Samaranch, the IOC president, when he asked for a silent pause, among everybody watching worldwide, in sympathy for the dead and beleaguered of Sarajevo, a former Olympic city. And he pleaded: "Stop fighting, stop killing and drop your arms."

The Olympic flag was raised. Then Stein Gruben, astride the pinnacle of the towering slope above us, received the torch. Trembling, he launched himself down the jump, landed perfectly, and passed the flame to another. There was a huge cheer when Crown Prince Haakon, heir of two former Olympic competitors and himself an athlete, ignited the pedestal.

The floodlights dimmed. All was still. And slowly, from

beneath the snow, there emerged, in ones and twos, the strange, crouching, tumbling, laughing figures, hesitant at first, in awe of the crowd surrounding them. By degrees, they grew in confidence. Then they were joined by more figures from the higher slopes, cascading joyously downwards, until a whole throng of hundreds was engaged in a shadowy, mystic ballet. The creation of the midnight sun of new life and opportunities for our future, that must be in harmony with nature. It was simultaneously a hymn and a parable, and when it was over, we wound our way back down the hillside and into the little town twinkling among the snow-laden firs. Enchanted, and wiser.

Aamodt left to ponder a numbing defeat

FROM DAVID MILLER

FOR almost four minutes, Kjetil Andre Aamodt, the home boy, stood waiting in the starting gate, gazing down the Kvitfjell mountain and contemplating the 100-odd seconds that would perhaps fashion the rest of his life.

Had he become the first Scandinavian to win the classic men's downhill ski race, one of sport's fiercest tests of nerve, he could be a legend equivalent to Sonja Henie. But Cary Mullen, of Canada, sixth to start, immediately before Aamodt, had fallen, and officials had to check the course.

As the young Norwegian all-rounder waited, a protective coat thrown over his shoulders by a trainer while others vigorously massaged his legs in the vicious minus-20° temperature that was free-

zing photographers' fingers to their cameras, it is possible that his destiny was determined. A mere four-hundredths of a second, that was the margin by which he would be beaten into second place by Tommy Moe, from Alaska, grandson of a Moe from near Oslo. Maybe Aamodt lost those fractions in his head.

Marc Girardelli, first down the Russi-designed course that Stein Eriksen, the Norwegian winner of the 1952 Olympic giant-slam, has called a racers' dream, had set a target time of 1min 45.75sec, as sharp as anything during the practice runs. Aamodt, 22, with the gold from the giant slalom at Albertville, and his recent first downhill victory at Chamonix to spur him, knew what he had to beat. So far.

On the four ferocious left-right, left-right turns down a

wall of ice that initially confronts the racer, Aamodt was exact, his time bettered by none of the top men over the first half-minute. But on the negative camber of the Elk Traverse, almost halfway down, he nearly lost the edge on his left ski. There, perhaps, glory evaporated.

The picture of his compact frame tucked behind his black helmet, hurtling downwards like a ball-bearing, brought a shiver to Norwegian skis. A 40,000-strong roar greeted his finish, 0.34sec ahead of Girardelli. Disillusionment, however, was instant.

Next down was Moe, a year older, the Montana-born former "golden child" of the junior circuit, who had become known as a knucklehead kid for his wild ways. It was not until his father took the teenage Moe to Alaska to knock some sense into him that he straightened out.

He remains, however, that simple kind of American ambition: to become a legend. When he encountered the Kvitfjell course, he regarded it as ideal for his style. Privately, his attitude was "Who's going to come second?"

He had been fourth fastest on the final training run but now did not start that well. Into the first and second interval times, he was no better than sixth and fourth respectively. Yet with a minute gone, taking the perfect line, the least edge and gliding whenever possible, he had swept into the lead. His remaining interval and final times would survive all attack, by Podivinsky, of Canada, who took the bronze, and by Ortlieb of Austria, the champion beaten into fourth place.

The top five men were divided by a third of a second over the 1.6-mile run with a vertical drop of 2,600 feet.

Moe once said he would become cocky if he ever started "winning big". Yesterday he was restraining himself. "The secret was to stay relaxed," he said. "I did not have a perfect race. I made a few mistakes, but I kept pushing my skis. It's great to win my first downhill in the Olympics."

A reflective Aamodt said he would spend a lot of time looking at where he lost those fractions, even if it was his best time of the week. It could have been worse: he might have been Heinzner, of Switzerland. Thrusting through the gate, Heinzner found he had left one of his skis behind. A bit like a new form of dismissal in cricket: taking guard, hit wicket.

It had been a glorious first day for the quietly impassioned Norwegians, even if Aamodt had to be content with a silver medal. When it was over, a snake-like line of departing supporters wound its way across the frozen lake that divides the valley. The Norwegians still have much to look forward to.



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Moe: relaxed



Nancy Kerrigan, the American figure skater, in relaxed mood at a news conference in Lillehammer

Koss delights Norway with gold

By MICHAEL COLEMAN AND CHRIS MOORE

JOHANN Olav Koss delighted a capacity crowd of 11,000 at the Viking Hall yesterday by winning Norway's first gold medal of the Games, capturing the 5,000 metres speed title in a world-record time of 6min 34.96sec.

This improved the record he set on the same Hamar ice in December by 0.57sec and bettered the Olympic record, set at Calgary in 1988 by Tomas Gustafsson, of Sweden, by nearly 10 seconds. To add to Norway's delight, Kjetil Storelid held off the Dutchman, Rinje Ritsma, who was favourite, for the silver medal.

As he skated before Koss, Storelid had the glory of being the Olympic record holder for about 20 minutes. Koss, however, went 7.72sec faster and in his final sprint nearly out-

paced the automatic camera that glides on its own rails at beside the track.

Ritsma had come to Hamar full of expectation, having beaten Koss in the European championships here last month. In the process, he recorded a time of 6min 39.46sec for the 5,000 metres, the third fastest ever, and as this was followed by a world record for the 1,500 metres, he was installed as strong Olympic favourite.

The Norwegians, seeing his new aerodynamic skates, which have plastic moulding fitted to reduce air friction, for the first time, fell silent as Ritsma flashed through the first 1,000 metres in 1min 19.15sec, compared to Koss's 1min 21.06sec. He kept up that pace to 2,600 metres, but faded

badly towards the finish. Koss, 25, also holds the 10,000 metres record, 13min 43.54sec, which he set in Holland three years ago and will take on Ritsma again over that distance on Sunday.

Paul Hix, the only British luger in Lillehammer, starts the last two runs today 3.9sec behind the leader, Georg Hackl, of Germany, who will create Winter Games history if he successfully defends the men's singles title he won at Albertville two years ago.

In the only speed sport measured in thousandths of a second, Hix's deficit represents a distance of almost 100 metres. Hackl broke his own track record with a time of 30.29sec on the opening run of the competition. But Markus Prock, of Austria, the

silver medal-winner two years ago, was only four thousandths of a second slower.

Hix, 19, who was born in the Isle of Wight but who has lived in Germany for the last 15 years, has been lugging in Bavaria since he was 11. If he moves up three places today, he will achieve his aim of finishing in the top 25. He underlined his potential by finishing twelfth in the world junior championships last year.

Manuela Di Centa, of Italy, won the first gold medal of the Games with an outstanding performance in the women's 15km cross-country skiing. Di Centa, 31, led from the start and left Lyubov Egorova, of Russia, the defending champion, trailing in second place by more than a minute.

Bush's absence gives Hall final place

DARREN Hall had an unexpectedly helpful preparation to his attempt to extend his record of men's badminton singles titles to seven at the English national championships in Norwich yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). The curious departure of his semi-final opponent, Peter Bush, left the champion with a day's rest while his two nearest rivals fought out a hard battle in the other semi-final.

Anders Nielsen, the second-seeded 1992 champion, lost for the first time in his career to the third seed, Peter Knowles, whose 15-12, 15-8 victory earned him his first final. Hall was able to relax while tournament officials tried to discover the whereabouts of Bush. The fourth-seeded Wiltshire man reported that he had an ankle injury after beating fellow England international, Peter Smith, in the quarter-finals on Saturday, but apparently sought no treatment from the tournament physiotherapist and departed the event within two hours of his success.

Hounslow through

HOCKEY: Hounslow survived a penalty-stroke barrage against Southgate at Broomfield School yesterday to gain a semi-final place in the Hockey Association Cup after the scores were tied at 2-2 after extra time (Sydney Friskin writes). Hounslow took an early grip on the match with goals by Robert Thompson in the fourth minute and the second by Nick Gordon four minutes later.

Bill Waugh started Southgate's recovery by converting a short corner in the 42nd minute and Danny Kerry scored the equaliser from a difficult angle three minutes before the end of normal time, the ball being deflected into goal off a defender's stick. In the extra period it was anybody's game. At the end of the first round of penalty strokes, the scores were level at 4-4. In sudden death, Hounslow won 2-1.

Devils trounce Pirates

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils need only 11 points from their last ten premier division games to retain their title and their form is such that it would be foolhardy to bet against them (Norman de Mesquita writes). Their 17-6 win over Peterborough Pirates was their seventeenth in succession and they were last defeated nine weeks ago. As usual, their Welsh players contributed a great deal to the win with Nicky Chinn leading the way with two goals and four assists. Fife Flyers beat Sheffield Steelers and Murrayfield Racers beat Whitley Warriors.

Becker ends drought

TENNIS: Boris Becker ended a year-long title drought by retaining the Milan indoor championship yesterday. The three-times Wimbledon winner beat the Grand Slam Cup holder, Petr Korda, of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. The result was a boost for the German, who returned to competition this month after a break of seven weeks, following the birth of his son. Becker, under his new coach, Nick Bollettieri, beat Ronald Agener, of Haiti, the conqueror of Michael Stich, in straight sets to reach the final while Korda beat Sergi Bruguera, of Spain.

Simon qualifies again

EQUESTRIANISM: Hugo Simon, of Austria, the winner of the first Volvo World Cup Final in 1979, guaranteed himself a place in the final this year by winning the qualifier at the Brussels International Horse Show early yesterday. Michael Whitaker, of Britain, consolidated his own position just behind the series leader, Jos Lansink, of Holland, by taking fifth place with Everest Midnight Madness, who looked fresh in his first international competition of the season. Of the top-placed riders, Frank Slothnaak, of Germany, rode splendidly on San Patrignano Weithaef.

Smith survives scare

RACKETS: Neil Smith, the favourite, survived a spectacular comeback by his powerful young opponent, Rupert Owen-Browne, before winning the Lacoste British Open championship at Queen's Club yesterday. Smith, the world's leading professional, took the first three games easily against the sixth-seeded Toubridgians, who had earlier put out two former world champions, John Pimm, in the quarter-finals, and Willie Boone, in the semi-finals. Owen-Browne fought back to level the score at 3-3 but could not maintain his momentum and Smith won the deciding game.

Bears make progress

BASKETBALL: Worthing Bears and Manchester Giamis, the leading clubs in the Budweiser League, prevailed at the weekend, but the Bears made much the easier progress, beating London Towers 106-83 and subjecting the new visiting coach, Charlie Bannerman, to a torrid introduction. Irish led Worthing with 28 points and Bowers, of London, scored 34. Manchester, trailing 28-27 at half-time, scrambled a 68-65 win at Sunderland. With games in hand on the joint leaders, Thames Valley Tigers remain the title favourites. Tigers beat Derby Bucks 115-94.

Hightown surprise

HOCKEY: Hightown opened up the women's national league championship on Saturday by beating Leicester 1-0 to dislodge them from the top of the table. As the national league resumes after the Christmas break, the three leading clubs are within one point of one another. With two minutes left, Tina Cullen was given an opportunity and she latched on to a Nancy Stokes pass to score Hightown's winner. Ipswich reclaimed their position at the top with a 4-1 victory over Chelmsford. Slough, the new indoor champions, moved into second place by beating Clifton 4-0.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	U	P	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Bpm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	60	170	good	powder	good	sun	-5 12/2
Mayrhofen	10	110	good	powder	closed	sun	-5 12/2
Schladming	45	150	good	powder	good	cloud	-3 12/2
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	130	220	good	varied	good	sun	-12 10/2
Chamonix	40	345	good	powder	good	fine	-2 10/2
Isola	180	290	good	powder	good	sun	-3 9/2
La Plagne	150	310	good	powder	good	sun	-12 10/2
Herveler	40	160	good	varied	good	fine	0 10/2
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	110	120	good	varied	good	fine	-6 11/2
C Montana	40	170	good	varied	good	fine	-5 10/2
Gstaad	25	75	good	powder	good	sun	-3 10/2
Villars	50	160	good	powder	good	sun	0 10/2
Wengen	35	100	good	powder	good	cloud	-5 13/2
Zermatt	65	230	good	powder	good	fine	-4 10/2

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

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ICE HOCKEY			
POOL A: Finland 3 Czech Republic 1; Russia 5 Norway 1; Germany 4 Austria 3; Pool B: Sweden 4 Slovakia 4.			
LUGE			
MEN'S SINGLES (after two runs): 1. G Heide (Ger) 1min 40.85sec (52.28sec, 50.57sec); 2. M Prock (Austria) 1:40.88sec (50.30sec, 50.58sec); 3. J. J. Kocijancic (Slo) 1:41.04sec (50.44sec, 50.60sec); 4. D. Kennedy (US) 1:41.22sec (50.57sec, 50.65sec); 5. A. Huber (It) 1:41.32sec (50.56sec, 50.76sec); 6. J. Muller (Ger) 1:41.42sec (50.63sec, 50.79sec); 7. A. Dencherov (Russia) 1:41.46sec (50.60sec, 50.86sec); 8. N. Huet (It) 1:41.48sec (50.68sec, 50.80sec); 9. W. Suckow (US) 1:41.51sec (50.69sec, 50.81sec); 10. M. Schmidt (Austria) 1:41.54sec (50.69sec, 50.85sec); 11. A. B. (Slo) 1:44.00sec (52.41sec, 52.59sec).			
NORDIC SKIING			
WOMEN'S 15 KM FREESTYLE CROSS-COUNTRY: 1. M. Di Centa (It) 39min 44.55sec; 2. L. Egorova (Russia) 41:03.03 N. Garmali (Russia) 41:10.4; 3. S. Barmore (It) 41:26.6; 4. L. Luzzini (Russia) 41:57.6; 5. Y. Vabre (Russia) 42:26.5; 6. A. Orsina (Slo) 42:29.4; 7. A. Harnisch (Slovenia) 42:34.4; 8. V. Venev (Bulg) 42:41.3; 10. A. Moen (Nor) 42:42.9.			
SKIING			
MEN'S DOWNHILL: 1. J. Moe (US) 1min 40.75sec; 2. K. Aamodt (Nor) 1:45.75; 3. E. Podivinsky (Can) 1:45.87; 4. P. Ortlieb (Austria) 1:46.01; 5. M. Garmali (Slo) 1:46.05; 6. N. Burtin (Fr) 1:46.11; 7. A. Harnisch (Slovenia) 1:46.22; 8. L. Alphon (Fr) 1:46.25; 9. A. Barmore (Nor) 1:46.29; 10. J. Thoresen (Nor) 1:46.34; 26. G. Sef (Slo) 1:47.38; 28. M. Bell (GB) 1:47.48.			
SPEED SKATING			
MEN'S 5,000: 1. J. Koss (Nor) 39min 34.58sec (world record); 2. K. Barmore (Nor) 40:42.66; 3. R. Ritsma (Neth) 40:43.4; 4. P. Zamboni (Neth) 40:44.55; 5. B. Veldhuis (Neth) 40:45.02; 6. J. Toivonen (Fin) 40:46.36; 7. J. Rucke (Pol) 40:46.40; 8. P. Harnisch (Slo) 40:52.57; 9. C. Harnisch (Austria) 40:53.02; 10. C. Eminger (Austria).			
MEDAL TABLE			
	Gold	Silver	Brass
Norway	1	2	0
Italy	1	0	0
United States	1	0	0
Russia	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1
Holland	0	0	1

TELEVISION: BBC2, 14.15-15.50; 20.00-21.00; 23.15-23.55.

Hurdler has to share record after false start from photo-judge

Jackson world record overturned



Colin Jackson in record-breaking form in Saturday's international against the US in Glasgow. Photograph: Michael Cooper/Allsport

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

COLIN Jackson went to bed on Saturday night thinking he had set seven records in as many seconds during a 60 metres hurdles race at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow. By lunchtime yesterday, however, news reached him at home in Wales that he was down to six-and-a-half records, having lost 50 per cent of the most important one — the world mark.

Jackson was announced as having beaten Greg Foster's indoor world mark with 7.35sec in the McDonald's international between Britain and the United States. The photographic evidence, however, shows that he ran 7.36sec, equalling Foster's time from 1987.

A year ago Jackson lost the indoor world title to a false start by the Canadian, Mark McKoy. This time the false start came from the photo-finish judges who rushed out a time before a thorough check had been made. "The pressure

is on to give a quick result," Raymond Hutchison, the photo-finish judge who noticed the difference, said. "On first reading it looked like he had broken the world record but when I got the film home, I took a dry print."

The enlarged print showed a slower time of between one and three thousandths of a second, enough to necessitate

Jackson's time being rounded up to the nearest hundredth. To meet the urgent needs of the stadium announcer and media, a wet negative had been read. "The moisture tends to fuzz the precise line of the torso," Hutchison said. "When the cursor was on the graduation mark representing the world record there was a definite gap of a

thousandth of a second." Two prints, one with a cursor line and one without, will be sent to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). "The IAAF is the final arbiter but I do not see they could come to any other conclusion," Hutchison said.

But 7.36sec broke six records: European, Commonwealth, British, Scot-

tish all-comers. United Kingdom all-comers. Jackson said: "I am not upset at all. I do not think the record will be 7.36sec come the end of the season." Sally Gunnell, Jackson's fellow British world outdoor champion hurdler, will try to improve her British indoor 400 metres record in Germany next month. It stands at 51.77sec and on Saturday, in her first race of the year, she recorded 52.34sec, three seconds clear of the field.

"With that time today, out on my own, I am sure I can run faster," Gunnell said, suggesting inside 51sec.

Steve Smith, of Britain, won the high jump, with Steve Smith, of the United States, second. At 2.20 metres there was almost a collision of Steve Smiths as both went to jump at the same time. The British Smith was putting in a practice run, not realising the American Smith was approaching with his second attempt. Their Smith did to get well as ours did to get out of his way.

Bedford in insurance puzzle

NICE runner, but not covered by insurance. If Wang Junxia sets a world best for the women's marathon in London on April 17 there may be an expensive price to pay for those who put China's prodigious running machine on the capital's roads (David Powell writes). Organisers of the NutraSweet London Marathon announced on Saturday that Wang and three other members of Ma Junren's Chinese women's distance squad have committed to their event and speculation began that Ingrid Kristiansen's world best of 2hr 21min 06sec set in London in 1985, might fall. The insurance companies see Wang as a high risk.

David Bedford, the elite field director, has been quoted as saying that Wang's insurance against Wang breaking 2hr 20min, of which

\$25,000 (about £16,700) is against her beating Kristiansen's mark. London's bonus structure offers \$50,000 (about £33,300) for a world best and a further \$100,000 for a woman breaking 2:20.

But Bedford does not want the insurance unless a markedly cheaper quote can be found. "I would not want to lose \$65,000 for it not happening," Bedford said. "We would expect the record to be broken, in which case we would face up to the financial consequences." With other cumulative bonuses on offer, beginning with \$1,000 for breaking 2hr 35min, Wang, or a team-mate, could pick up \$175,500 for sub 2:20. Bedford's reasoning is that the publicity such a run would bring would be money well spent.

Tirley Missile to deny Greenall's challenge

By BRIAN BEEL

JOHNNY Greenall has won on each of the three occasions he has contested a Times Rising Stars qualifier on one of his Caroline Saunders-trained runners. However, his attempt at enhancing that record on Kilfinny Cross at Hereford today must overcome stiff opposition, headed by Tirley Missile and Cool Relation.

Kilfinny Cross, who countered stamina doubts with an unchallenged victory at Barbury Castle, will be not easy to beat, but his time was four seconds slower than that recorded by Tirley Missile when winning over the same course and distance.

The experience gained by Tirley Missile in two hunter chases last season will stand him in good stead and, although he subsequently seemed to find three miles too far, his stamina could not be questioned on his latest outing.

Cool Relation was still in front of Wild Illusion and going well when he fell half a mile from home in a Land Rover open at Barbury Castle three weeks ago. He also came to grief on his initial outing last season before going on to be unbeaten in four races. Alan Phillips, who shared the novice riders' title last year, rode him in three of them and is on board again today.

Cool Relation, now trained by his owner, Denis Caro, was formerly with Penny Grainger, who



thought him "a super horse" but one prone to jumping mistakes under pressure.

Parkbridge, trained by Peter Bowen, who produced last year's final winner, Gold Shot, was behind in Double

Silk's Chepstow hunter chase when hampered by the fall of Doubting Donna. He improved with each race last year when he won four times.

Pont De Paix, owned and trained by Pam Sykes, has not been out this year but last season was unbeaten in his last three races. He is likely to be fit for his sternest test so far and the competent Charlie Barlow is aboard.

The race looks to be between these five but they are so closely matched that predicting the outcome is particularly tricky. I would not deter anyone who believes in the invincibility of the Saunders-Greenall partnership, but suggest that Tirley Missile may provide better value.

HEREFORD HURDLES

2.00 TIMES RISING STARS HUNTERS CHASE

(Qualifier: amateurs £1,953; 3m 11 1/2yd) (9 runners)

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Shearer's pursuit keeps Blackburn in title chase



Shearer: single minded

Tottenham Hotspur.....0
Blackburn Rovers.....2

By KEITH PIKE

SUDDENLY, what had seemed impossible now appears merely probable. Manchester United, who looked to have broken the field in the championship marathon, may yet be involved in a sprint to the line.

United, 16 points clear at one stage, have had their lead trimmed to ten by Blackburn Rovers, and by the time they return to FA Cup Premier-ship duties after the distractions of the FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup, could find the gap

down to four, with a summit meeting scheduled for Ewood Park at Easter. The race is back on.

All Blackburn have to do is keep on winning, and they have got the taste. This victory on Saturday was their sixth in succession in the league. They have taken 28 points out of the last 30, and during that run only United themselves have been able to hold them, forcing a fortuitous draw on Boxing Day. Alex Ferguson's hares may have designs on the treble, but the championship momentum is firmly with Kenny Dalglish's tortois.

The odds still favour United. A month ago they came to

White Hart Lane and merely toyed with Tottenham before Mark Hughes put them out of their misery. Blackburn had to work harder, defend more vigorously, before making their superiority count with two goals in the last half an hour.

But, as United are able to chop and change their line-up at will without disturbing their rhythm, so Blackburn are building a squad that, if this season does prove a year too soon, could by next year have the depth to rival them. Hendry, Newell and Warhurst are all some way from full fitness. Sherwood's more recent injury could keep him out for six weeks, and on

Saturday they were without Batty. But in came Atkins and Marker with no apparent ill-effects. It was the most gratifying aspect of the day, Dalglish, the Rovers manager, said.

And then there is Alan Shearer. For all United's flair and match-winning potential from every area of the field, neither they nor anybody else in England possesses a forward so single minded in pursuit of goals yet so steeped in the work ethic Wright may score more spectacularly, Cole may be quicker, but only Rush of the modern strikers has been so effective when not on the ball. The goal that gave Blackburn the lead in this

match was a perfect demonstration of Shearer's qualities. Wrestling with Nethercott for possession ten yards inside the Tottenham half on the left, Shearer's strength was not enough to prevent the young defender laying the ball off to Sedgley. But where others would have shrugged their shoulders, Shearer gave chase.

Possession was won back with a forceful block tackle, Gallacher released, and after the ball had been transferred sweetly between Ripley, Berg, Gallacher and Ripley again, Shearer was beyond the far post for Ripley's cross, fully extended but with the power to direct his header back

across, and over, Walker. It was his fiftieth goal for Blackburn in his 59th appearance. Gallacher got the second from Atkins's astute pass, and Tottenham were plunged further into disarray. They have lost six Premiership games in succession, have not won at home in the league in ten attempts, and for all that they worked hard and stayed true to their manager's principles, it is difficult to say where their next point is coming from.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-1-3-2): Walker — O Austin, S Nethercott, K Scott, J. Edgar, G. Sedgley — O Anderson, V. Barnaby, O. Coleman — N. Bown, D. May, K. Morris, G. Le. Saxe — S. Ripley, N. Winstanley, M. Adams, J. Walker — K. Gallacher, A. Shearer. Referee: J. Gower.

City revival stutters in front of frustrated faithful

Manchester City.....0
West Ham United.....0

By PETER BALL

TO MARK their centenary in August, Manchester City plan matches against Real Madrid, Barcelona or AC Milan. Unless they start scoring some goals, their other fixtures that month might be against less glamorous opposition, such as Barnsley, Stoke, Luton and other members of the Endersleigh Insurance League first division.

"The first thing I can promise you is that we will NOT be relegated," Francis Lee wrote in the first chairman's column of the new regime. Perhaps not, but a draw with an unambitious West Ham leaves them still far too close to the relegation zone.

"Bring Back Swales", shouted one supporter as he left. If his laugh revealed another Mancunian comedian rather than a dissident after the euphoria of the previous week, it was back to mundane reality.

The arrival of Lee has had a galvanising effect on the club and its supporters, with 29,000 turning up for a fixture which promised little and produced less, but there is still a struggle ahead as West Ham's former City forward Clive Allen said after the match.

"Francis's coming has obviously sorted out all the disputes off the field, and things are settled for them now," he said. "But he can't get in the penalty area and score their goals for them, can he?"

"I don't think they will go down, but to be brutally honest, they've got to win their home games." Allen might have added that in particular they need to beat teams like West Ham. With his position far from secure, February had offered Brian Horton a kind of fixer, but to turn that to account his side will need to convert chances into goals and on Saturday that proved beyond them. The best chances fell to Shutt, who does a lot right. On one occasion he broke free to meet Edgill's cross with a header of impressive power, from virtually a standing start, and, on another struck a fine volley.

But the header flew a foot over the bar and the shot went straight into Miklosko's midriff. Signing a goalscorer will be Horton's first task when Lee releases the money this week or next. And the blame for Saturday's failure should not be entirely heaped on the strikers. Edgill and Rocastle both reached the byline inside the penalty area and then wasted their crosses as colleagues piled in eagerly.

At least City did not throw it away, although for a time that looked the likeliest outcome, but with Chapman making little impact and Clive Allen understandably rusty in his first appearance in five months since injuring his knee, there was little serious threat.

With all last week's upsets, West Ham are beginning to think optimistically about the FA Cup, but they will need to play better to impress Kidderminster Harriers, let alone any Endersleigh League giants in later rounds.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-3-3): A. Cole — P. Edgar, K. Curtis, J. Taylor — W. Barton, S. Fagan, J. Scales, G. Ellis — V. Jones, R. Earle, P. Fear — J. Fashanu (sub: A. Curtis, T. Mann, O. Holdsworth, O. Bland). Referee: J. Lloyd.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L. Miklosko — T. Brindley, K. Brown, S. Potts, K. Rowland — M. Marsh (sub: P. Marquis, S. Wright), I. Bishop, M. Allen, M. Holmes — L. Chapman, C. Allen (sub: T. Morley, T. Mann). Referee: V. Calver.

Arsenal frustrated at Carrow Road

Ekoku equal to task of earning Norwich a point

Norwich City.....1
Arsenal.....1

By KEITH PIKE

THIS was a match, and a result, that offered little in the way of encouragement that either of these teams can qualify for another European campaign via their League positions. Events at Carrow Road yesterday strengthened the belief that Manchester United and Blackburn apart, mediocrity abounds in the Premiership.

Had the referee not missed one of the more obvious penalty awards of the season, when Newman clearly tripped ParLOUR twenty minutes from time, or had ParLOUR not shot at Gunn's legs when through in the last minute, Arsenal might yet have been celebrating a complete recovery from their FA Cup defeat at Bolton's hands. As it is, their fourth successive League draw leaves them trailing Blackburn by ten points, having played a game more.

At least Arsenal still have the European Cup Winners' Cup to prolong their ambitions. Norwich, still seeking their first win since John Deehan was confirmed as manager, are surely now out of the running.

On a bitterly cold afternoon, the win-chill factor that has

afflicted Carrow Road all season refused to blow away. Norwich have now won only one of their last dozen home games and Efan Ekoku's second-half equaliser was only their eleventh goal in front of their own supporters in the League.

No team in England has been less prolific. Their first-half performance was particularly disappointing, the precision of their passing game and their patience deserting them.

Their subsequent improvement perhaps merited a draw, although George Graham, the Arsenal manager disagreed. "I was delighted with the way we responded after that mid-week defeat," he said. "I thought we deserved to win."

He also dismissed speculation that a fee had been agreed for the transfer of Alan Smith to Wolverhampton Wanderers. With Wright injured, Smith will be needed and he paid a crucial part in Arsenal's goal. The players Graham fielded yesterday have managed only 17 between them in the League this season, the same as Chris Sutton, the Norwich striker, has managed on his own.

The first half had seen Norwich at their most infuriatingly ineffective as Arsenal, after a predictably hesitant start, gradually imposed themselves. Without Wright, they are often a powderpuff

outfit — they have won only six of the 24 games in which he has not taken part while he has been at the club. But they deserved the lead given them by Campbell's 34th minute goal.

Beforehand the frozen crowd had been treated to 30 minutes of tedium and one moment of genius. The instigator was Sutton, whose turn after Goss had laid the ball forward left Bould floundering. Spotting Seaman, perhaps two yards too far forward, Sutton unleashed a 25-yard shot that rose and curled away from the goal-keeper towards the top corner.

But, although Seaman may be notoriously fallible at free kicks, he remains one of the country's outstanding shot stoppers. Twisting in mid-air and stretching his left hand up he pushed the ball onto the crossbar.

Had the opportunities that fell to Ekoku gone Sutton's way, Norwich might still have prospered. Sutton's striking partner was having a dreadful time, his lack of control ruining the few promising moments Norwich managed to create, and with Arsenal pushing forward with increasing confidence, it was no surprise when they took the lead.

ParLOUR won a corner on the right, when his shot was blocked by Polston. The corner was laid back to Dixon, a cross floated beyond the far post, and there Smith rose above Polston to head back across goal and allow Campbell the simplest of finishes.

Twice in the opening stages of the second half Norwich defenders came within inches of putting through their own goal. But when they moved forward, Norwich now found the room denied them earlier, and before the hour they were level.

Eadie, a half-time substitute, had already shot over when well-placed when Norwich reverted to Route One. Gunn's long clearance found Sutton rising above Adams to flick on an Ekoku, rediscovering his poise at last, edged the ball away from Bould to beat Seaman with a fine shot from 18 yards.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): S. Gunn — J. Cuthbertson, J. Polston, R. Newman, C. Wright (sub: S. Eadie, 45 mins), J. Goss, J. Crook, G. Morgan (sub: J. Power, 74), M. Barmby, E. Bogg, C. Sutton. Referee: J. Gower.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Campbell — J. Jensen, P. Mannion, P. Davis, K. Campbell, A. Smith. Referee: R. Davies.

Oliver Holt sees a bad week for Newcastle end with a 4-2 defeat by a Wimbledon team which plays to its strengths

IT is at truth universally acknowledged that a team in search of solace should avoid a visit to Wimbledon where they snuff out psychological frailty like a hooded scenting blood, then tear their victims apart with uninhibited ferocity.

Newcastle United, their morale plunging after the mid-week FA Cup defeat by Luton Town, their misery compounded by the disciplinary fall out from an unsanctioned visit by three of their players to a Bournemouth wine bar, fitted the profile perfectly. Vinnie, Fash and the rest of the Crazy Gang took their cue.

They set about their task with calm efficiency but when Newcastle buckled after the first prod, the manner of the destruction became more extravagant. Jones mocked, allowing himself the futile luxury of attempting clever tricks with the ball, Fashanu milked the unexpected occurrence of being fouled by Beardsley.

They still display all the antics of an albino team, the exaggerated protests to the referee, the elaborate male bonding orchestrated by Fashanu, Jones' reckless challenges and vaudeville clearances.

That is what must make them so intimidating. They play with all the raw passion and undiluted aggression of a Sunday park team and that is still their strength, the thing that makes them stand out. But there were no beer bellies at Selhurst, Park, no legs flagging because of a heavy night the day before. Wimbledon are fit and skilful.

On Saturday, they did not just out-thought Kevin Keegan's team, they outplayed them and despite the protestations of their manager, Joe Kinnear, that the only way to stop Eric Cantona in the FA Cup tie against Manchester United next Sunday will be to tie him up and gag him, they present a serious threat to United's pursuit of the treble.

Fashanu scored the goal that killed Newcastle off, finishing a fine move that culminated in a superb cross from Fear by nodding the ball down and firmly past Hooper to make the score 3-1.

The visitors, lacking a target for their near approach work because of the absence of the injured Andy Cole, looked doomed from the moment Robbie Earle pounced on Hooper's weak punch and headed it back past him to put Wimbledon ahead in the



Beardsley takes a tongue-lashing from Jones before referee Lloyd steps in

ninth minute. Holdsworth, Wimbledon's best player, had two close-range efforts saved by the goalkeeper's legs before Blissett hurried in between the hapless centre backs to direct Barton's cross inside Hooper's left-hand post.

Venison, stripped of the captaincy because of his part in the drinking incident, and Howey, another of the miscreants, seemed unable to cope with the incursions of the Wimbledon front three and although Beardsley, the new captain, dragged them back

into the game with a penalty after Beardsford had been brought down by Jones, the back four left Fashanu unmarked for Wimbledon's third.

Howey, under pressure from the entrepreneurial centre forward, scooped the ball away from Hooper and straight to Holdsworth who side-footed it into the empty net for Wimbledon's fourth in the 62nd minute. Fox, making his debut after a £2.5 million move from Norwich City, faded after a bright start and it was left to Beardsley to

score a consolation goal two minutes from the end with another sweetly struck penalty. Fashanu had already departed. "He was tired of scoring goals," Kinnear said, "so we thought we would give him a rest. He is on so much each time he scores, I thought I'd take him off and save us a few pounds."

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3): H. Segers — W. Barton, S. Fagan, J. Scales, G. Ellis — V. Jones, R. Earle, P. Fear — J. Fashanu (sub: A. Curtis, T. Mann, O. Holdsworth, O. Bland). Referee: J. Lloyd.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE					
	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form	
1 Manchester Utd	28	67	+32	DDWWW	
2 Blackburn	27	57	+21	WWWWW	
3 Arsenal	28	47	+17	WDDDD	
4 Newcastle	27	45	+22	WWLWL	
5 Liverpool	27	44	+12	WDWWD	
6 Aston Villa	27	44	+9	LWDWW	
7 Sheffield Wed	28	43	+15	WWLWW	
8 Leeds	27	43	+10	DDDLL	
9 Norwich	27	41	+10	LDLWL	
10 QPR	27	39	+6	LDLWL	
11 Wimbledon	27	36	-7	LWLWL	
12 West Ham	28	36	-10	WDLLD	
13 Coventry	28	35	-4	LLWLD	
14 Ipswich	28	33	-7	DDLLD	
15 Everton	29	30	-8	LWLWD	
16 Tottenham	29	30	-3	LLLLL	
17 Chelsea	27	26	-10	DDLLL	
18 Oldham	28	26	-23	LLDWW	
19 Manchester City	27	25	-10	LDLWD	
20 Southampton	27	24	-12	DLWWL	
21 Sheffield Utd	28	23	-20	WDLLD	
22 Swindon	29	22	-36	DLWWL	

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

County step out of Forest's shadow

Notts County.....2
Nottingham Forest.....1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

NOTTS County missed out on wicket Wednesday. As the Davids in the FA Cup unleashed their slingshot and caught the Goliaths fairly and squarely on the forehead, County were succumbing to Lee Chapman's 118th minute winner away to West Ham United. So nearly did they join Bolton Wanderers, Luton Town and Oxford United in a fifth round shorn of some of the FA Cup Premier-ship's best teams.

An opportunity to share in national adulation was wasted. Not to worry; Saturday provided adequate compensation for the oldest club in the country, born 1862. Victory over Nottingham Forest, an abrupt end to their rivals' 13 match unbeaten run in the Endersleigh Insurance League first division and temporary euphoria in the latest bout of Trent warfare.

Mick Walker, the County manager, glowed with satisfaction at a job well done yet stopped short of a good old fashioned gloat. "We've always been the underdog in this city but I don't feel any hatred towards Forest," he

said. "I don't take any pleasure in anyone failing. I just desperately want us to do well."

County deserved their moment. Since flirting with the top flight in the early Eighties, they have sunk in the shadows of Brian Clough's red-and-white army from across the river. Even with Ol' Big Ead now tending a garden rather than players, Frank Clark, his successor, is rebuilding towards Premiership respectability again.

Before the rude interruption on Saturday, Forest had risen from nineteenth place to third in four months of stealthy progress. "It is disappointing our run should come to an end," Clark said. "The trick is now not to sit around moping about it. I'm still confident about promotion."

County's thirst for work, which earned them four of five bookings, was complemented by the still measured approach of the wandering Peter Reid. 37, so prematurely discarded during the self destruct-

tion of Manchester City. "He can't run, can barely breathe, his legs have gone all soft and he can't kick a ball more than ten yards," Walker said. "Yet look what he does. He calms everyone down. It's just what we needed here."

McSweeney twisted Chettle and Cooper every which way before firing County in front early in the second half. Phillips equalised in the 85th minute but, seconds later, Palmer nodded in Draper's retained free kick for a rare event — a league goal, his eleventh in 15 seasons.

County continued to dream of a play-off berth and success in the Anglo-Italian Cup. Forest chase the loftier prize of a Premiership badge. Nottinghamshire supremacy shifted for 90 minutes only.

NOTTS COUNTY (4-4-2): S. Dray — C. Palmer, P. Foster, P. Turner, J. Johnson, P. Lewis, P. Shaw, M. Cooper, G. Bennett, S. Long, 45 mins, G. McSweeney (sub: J. McSweeney, 30 mins), G. Chettle, 15 mins, G. Phillips (sub: G. Phillips, 15 mins), G. Draper, 15 mins, G. Cooper, S. Chettle, S. Palmer, S. Shaw (sub: S. Shaw, 15 mins), S. Bennett, G. Phillips, S. Bennett, K. Black, L. Galloway. Referee: P. Dorr.

Oldham set for another escape act

Oldham Athletic.....2
Chelsea.....1

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

EARLIER than the first cuckoo, more redolent than the smell of linseed oil on cricket bat, Oldham Athletic have responded to the annual threat of relegation by winning matches. You can almost set your clock by it. It might as well be spring.

This was a frantic, scrappy game and Oldham know how to scrap. Chelsea will have to learn. They began more comfortably but the corporate impression they left in defeat, which leaves them level on points with their conquerors was of a fractions size who sought to compensate for a lack of height with excessive muscle. A point would have flattered them.

The abiding memory of the afternoon is of one Oldham player after another finding his path towards goal obstructed by a strategically

placed, and subsequently apologetic, opponent. If people find it odd that a team managed by Glenn Hoddle can play this way, others might point out that even lovely, charming Swindon Town were not shy of kicking like mules last season when it suited them.

There is talent in Hoddle's side. Burley looks a good mover with the ball. Sean is shining along on the bubble his goals have blown and Spencer has his moments when he is not niggling defenders. The fact is, they are still fighting to avoid the drop and others are more practised at it.

Should he leave Boundary Park, and that eventually reedes with each season he stays, Joe Royle could make a mint offering his services as a "relegation consultant". When they were losing games in December and January, Oldham looked a hopeless case. Now they are unbeaten in five games and resemble a team that has rediscovered a com-

mon purpose, that of survival.

In desperate times experience is essential and Oldham, unlike Chelsea, are old hands in this situation. From the stream of crosses Holden provided, Jobson and Sharp headed the goals which won the match either side of Spencer's equaliser. To emphasise the point Sharp's winner, ten minutes from time, came when McCarthy redirected



Holden: entertained

the centre with a header of his own. So long as Holden, who gave Clarke a torrid time, supplies that kind of service, Oldham's strikers will not lack opportunity.

Less talented players than Holden have gone further in the game by being more single-minded. He is that rare species, the rounded footballer who does not take himself too seriously. He even blew kisses at the Chelsea supporters.

For their spirit Oldham deserved to win. Unfortunately spirit alone is never enough and they needed two grand saves by Hallworth from Stein and Spencer, five minutes from time, to achieve it.

As for Chelsea, they should remember the words of another old song. Spring can really hang you up the most.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC (4-3-3): J. Hoddle — C. Malin, C. Fleming, R. Johnson, N. Portman — N. McDonald (sub: O. Beardsford, G. Bennett, M. Johnson, P. Bernard, M. McCarthy (sub: T. Pedersen, G. Bennett, G. Sharp, R. Hutton). Referee: A. Gurney.

CHELSEA (4-4-2): O. Kinnear — S. Clarke, E. Johnson, P. Stanger, A. Maynard — S. Clarke, E. Johnson, P. Stanger (sub: O. Hopkin, 65), P. Percival — M. Stein, J. Spencer. Referee: A. Gurney.

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Gascoigne signals his intent to Venables

FROM ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN ROME

THERE are few players who could, or would want to, steal the thunder of a colleague who scores a hat-trick. Paul Gascoigne is the exception.

Yesterday, a day as clear as crystal in the Olimpico Stadium in Rome, Gascoigne's colleague, Peppino Signori, scored three consecutive goals, but Gascoigne, both master and clown, treated him almost as a warm-up act before milking the applause for himself, scoring the final goal, and seeking out Terry Venables, the new England coach, in the crowd.

It was an afternoon of theatre and deception. Gascoigne occupied the centre circle for his strutting, strolling, first-half movements, scarcely hinting at the full powers of his game, and not really telling Venables or anybody else whether he is yet as fully fit as Dino Zoff, the Lazio manager, insists he is.

Yet, even in this foreplay, which the Italian crowds accept with extraordinary patience, you could say of Gascoigne that he is the one Englishman able to look unfettered in a game of such high technical cat-and-mouse. Moreover, the Lazio team defers to him, knowing that he lies for the most part in deep repose, yet waiting for him to initiate their thrusts.

Hardly waiting in that sense was Signori. He began his goal-scoring with a typical penalty, taking barely two paces back and then making a deadly strike with the left foot that deceived Flori.

Signori was then denied a second goal when the goalkeeper turned his shot on to the bar. Fuser, unable to match his running power with accurate shooting, missed two chances, and Gascoigne, bellyflopping on to the turf, put a header from ten yards just wide.



Gascoigne: centre stage

However, out of a dull first half came the first flickerings of Gascoigne's ambition, his exceptional control, and, at last, his athleticism. Shaking off the lethargy, he ran boldly, hypnotically down the left, shrugging off Sanna, who had been assigned to mark him like a second skin.

Signori scored again with a free kick from 30 yards that exploded through the clear air with force quite belying this striker's size-five left boot. Gascoigne, even then, almost usurped the scorer. He ran to the dugout, threw himself at Zoff and, for good measure, kicked Maurizio Manzini, the team general manager, in the backside.

The Italians simply roll their eyes and shrug at "their" Gazza. "He's mad, sometimes bad, but we forgive him for his flair and his special qualities," the only slightly wounded Manzini said. Gascoigne saved his best moment until two minutes from time. He had waited for Signori to head his thirteenth goal in 12 matches this season; he had been booked for the sixth time in his own chequered season, though this time for nothing more than making a derisory gesture when Sanna was shown the yellow card for fouling him.

Taking a free kick towards the left side of the penalty area, Gascoigne produced the startling ability he possesses to impart swerve on the ball, surprising Flori with the liveness with which his right-foot kick dipped high inside the far post.

Gascoigne swaggered towards the touchline, stood absolutely statuesque, a Eubank of the playing field. And then he turned, gave the thumbs-up sign with both hands to Venables.

Almost needlessly, a team official came out from the dressing-room to say: "Your man is very, very happy — happy because he played a good game, and he scored so that Mr Venables could see he is back to his best." Best? At the pace he was allowed yesterday, nobody can be sure. Yet an entertainer is entitled to gauge his performance to the pace of life around him, and entertainer is certainly the correct word.

There have been plenty of inequities in the same office over the past three months, so triumph, albeit the relatively minor triumph of a 3-0 win over Wycombe Wanderers in the Endleigh Insurance League third division, was long overdue, the first shot of the drug called confidence which managers need just as much as players, a brief



King, the Mansfield manager, directs operations from the bench as his side gets the better of Wycombe Wanderers

King for a day at Field Mill

SITTING back in his spartan office, cigar in one hand, can of beer in the other, Andy King was trying to retain a sense of perspective about Mansfield Town and failing spectacularly.

On these days, on days when you thrash the team lying second in the league and do it with such style, the chairman offers you a cigar. Even a fledgling manager like King knows that the moment should be enjoyed to the full. By the end of the evening, anything would be possible.

"Unequaled," he beamed. "To watch your side do what you've been telling them to do, to see them play with passion, pace and commitment. It was victory with quality and it's all yours. Better than being a player." Better even, he thought, than being chaired off Goodison Park as Everton's goalscoring hero in victory over Liverpool.

There have been plenty of inequities in the same office over the past three months, so triumph, albeit the relatively minor triumph of a 3-0 win over Wycombe Wanderers in the Endleigh Insurance League third division, was long overdue, the first shot of the drug called confidence which managers need just as much as players, a brief



Andrew Longmore on a 3-0 defeat of Wycombe Wanderers that left the Mansfield manager overjoyed

glimpse of daylight in a dark corridor.

Since he left the safety of the commercial manager's office at Luton, the club where he started his playing career, for the tightrope of league management, King, 37, has known failure well, but barely been on nodding terms with success. Under his guidance, Mansfield have plummeted from seventh to seventeenth in three months, prompting plenty of wise old tongues to wag about good players not making the best managers.

King was a very good player, a fine passer of the ball, but he just missed out on the glory years at Everton and never earned the international recognition his talent deserved. He still searches for the Everton return first and admits that his ambition is to return to Goodison as manager after Mansfield have leapt up the divisions and King's stock is high.

If enthusiasm were the prime requirement, he would be halfway there already.

King feels his football, perhaps too deeply for a manager. The best managers blame their players when things go wrong and take the credit when they go right. King accepts both.

"As a player, you only had to worry about yourself. If you'd had a good game and the team had lost, it was on the bus and 'Who's for a game of cards?' If you lose as a manager, it's your fault. You pick the team, you decide the tactics." He will learn. His opposite number, Martin O'Neill, the manager of Wycombe, knew deep down he had made mistakes but threw the onus of a dismal defeat onto his players. "We had no desire, no commitment, no heart."

Had it not been for a long-standing connection with the Haslam family, King's vivacity and nous might have been lost to football for good. Despite his credentials, he could not find a job, so he set up his own promotions company and resigned himself to a life on

the fringes of the game, organising after-dinner speakers and celebrity days, before becoming commercial manager at Luton. "I would have done anything. Made the tea, been a coach driver. No one offered." Until Keith Haslam, son of Harry and new owner of Mansfield Town, called up last November. "It took me about ten seconds to say 'Yes'."

On Saturday, for once, everything went right. Stuart Hadley, the Derby reserve striker he bought on Wednesday, played like Marco van Basten, scoring the second and providing the third for Wilkinson, the corner routine worked like clockwork for the opener, even if the wrong man, Fairclough, scored and the normally docile Field Mill crowd burst into song after a season-and-a-half's hibernation.

"Today showed I am capable of doing the job," King said. At least until next Saturday at Scunthorpe.

MANSFIELD TOWN (4-2-2, 0 W, 2 D, 12 L) — P. Fleming (sub: K. Norman, 50 min), C. Timony, R. Gray, A. Boothroyd — W. Fairclough, S. Phipps, P. Philpott, J. Ross — S. Hadley (sub: L. Wilson, 85), S. Wilkinson. WYCOMBE WANDERERS (4-4-2, 11 W, 1 D, 11 L) — J. Cousins, M. Crossley, A. Kerr, S. Stapleton, D. Carroll, S. Brown (sub: S. Thompson, 88), K. Pugh, S. Guppy. Turnout (sub: T. Langford, 50), S. Gomer. Referee: J. Winter.

Overdrafts and balance sheets replace a boy's dreams of glory

THE advancing years leave a man with an inferior set of dreams. Boyhood can happily be spent in back garden or public park rehearsing the great goals to be scored in adult life. With the passage of time, however, the silence of the telephone becomes ominous. The team you idolise never does get in touch.

At this point only shrunken ambitions remain. Instead of joining the club you support you will have to make do with purchasing it. This version of the sporting life is composed of balance sheets instead of score sheets. It may be a low-calorie vision but a surprising number of people find it nourishing. Such sentiment is probably feeding the attempt to take over Celtic.

Willie Haughey, a Glasgow businessman, heads a consortium which appears to be making progress in a bid which would see them buy 60 per cent of the club. According to rumours, three of the five key directors are already willing to follow suit and the others could buckle shortly. For the £3.6 million price Haughey would be the proud owner of a £5 million overdraft, some £7 million of current liabilities and a side which has been producing scruffy football for several seasons.

Reason is irrelevant. Haughey is probably beguiled by the thought of acquiring Celtic but he is not alone in falling prey to such enchantment. Since the 1980s seven of the twelve clubs in the premier division have gone through the convulsive process of changing hands. In many cases the euphoria of fresh ownership has proved fleeting.

Celtic need to be relieved of a board which has demonstrated an unwavering ability to pump for the wrong decision. Replacing them, however, will not by itself remove the risk of failure for the club. It is particularly awkward for newcomers to make lucid judgements.

Alex Fynn, co-author of *Out of Time*, a withering analysis of the modern game, argues that the passion for football which encourages businessmen to acquire clubs is also apt to bring about their ruin. "The club," he said, "often becomes a sort of adult toy. What is more, chairmen who are supporters feel that their decisions are, by definition, bound to be correct. They do not bother to consult anyone else."

In consequence some er-

atic courses of action are followed. Several famous names, diversified beyond the reach of their own competence, Tottenham Hotspur's involvement, under Irving Scholar, in such activities as leisurewear and knitwear led to the fabric of the club unravelling. In Scotland, the previous owners of Hibernian invested in a failed chain of pubs in England and were left with a financial hangover.

There are concerns about Haughey because he has so far declined to outline his plans should he take over Celtic. No-one is yet sure that he has access to the resources which will allow him to deal with the debts. His bid, however, can only be welcome if it brings stability.

No chairman has true power until the overdraft is under control. Otherwise it will manage the club, dictat-

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

ing large sales and small purchases in the transfer market while also preventing any long-term planning from taking shape. Hibernian have been making a gradual recovery since Tom Farmer bought them from the receivers in 1991 principally because he has insisted on prudence.

The Edinburgh club are free of any great debt and their secure, if modest, condition has allowed them to inch forward in Scottish football, making wise purchases of men such as Kevin McAllister, when circumstances permit. The helterskelter approach of former times is gone but so, too, is the risk of oblivion.

Haughey has still to conclude negotiations with the present directors but there are also his own emotions to be dealt with. It would be unfortunate for Celtic if he seized control without having the means to right the sinking finances. A passionate concern for the club's welfare should lead Haughey to a calm assessment of its prospects in his hands.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Coca-Cola Cup

Semi-final, first leg

MAN UTD (1) 1 SHEFF WED (0) 0

FA Cup

4th round

WILSON (1) 1 SWINSON (0) 0

2nd round

WILSON (1) 1 SWINSON (0) 0

3rd round

WILSON (1) 1 SWINSON (0) 0

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5th round

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6th round

WILSON (1) 1 SWINSON (0) 0

7th round

WILSON (1) 1 SWINSON (0) 0

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Endleigh Insurance League

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As the recession keeps its grip on Europe, does Spain have the will or the political muscle to impose necessary reforms, asks Peter Strafford

After several years of growing self-confidence in the late 1980s, culminating in the festivities of 1992, when it celebrated the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World, Spain is suffering from a hangover. It is not alone in this, at a time of recession in Europe. But economic difficulties are hitting the Spanish particularly hard, with, for instance, an estimated 23 per cent or more unemployed.

At the same time the socialist government of Felipe González has been weakened politically. The socialist party (PSOE) emerged as the winner in last June's general election, in spite of expectations that it would be overtaken by the conservative Partido Popular (PP), but it lost the overall majority in parliament it had held since 1982. Señor González tried to form a coalition with two nationalist parties, Convergència i Unió (CIU) of Catalonia and the Partido Nacional Vasco (PNV) of the Basque country, with which he would have commanded a permanent majority, but this proved impossible. So he now heads a minority government which needs to win support from elsewhere for each of its legislative measures.

For the parties of the opposition, all this implies that after being in power for nearly 12 years, the socialists are approaching the end of the line. José María Aznar, leader of the PP, told *The Times* that though in the end his party had not won last June's election, it had increased its votes from 5,200,000 to 8,200,000. It made its appeal to the young, particularly professionals and townspeople in general, and was a clear alternative to the socialists.

Ignasi Anasagasti, parliamentary leader of the PNV, talked of "the end of an epoch", and said that Señor González, the towering figure in Spanish politics since 1982, was "tired".

This is not the way the socialists see it, however, and, faced with an admittedly difficult situation, they are fighting back confidently. Narcís Serra, the deputy prime minister, who is himself a Catalan, said there were signs that Spain was emerging from recession. "Statistics for the second half of 1993 show a change in the trend", he told *The Times*. "There won't be a sudden change for the better, but we are slowly getting out."

Spanish companies were improving their profits, Señor Serra said, interest rates were still going down, and the favourable exchange rate for the peseta, after three devaluations, was helping the growth of exports. If other European countries picked up, so would Spain.



Last month, union members faced riot police as they staged a one-day general strike in protest against new employment legislation. But it has not deterred the government from its reform policies



The economic pain in Spain

Señor Serra conceded that having only a minority government made things more difficult, but claimed that the results so far were "not bad". The government had received the support of the CIU and the PNV for austerity measures in the budget for 1994, adopted last autumn; and this was followed by an overwhelming parliamentary majority last month, including the PP, for an important series of reforms to the laws on employment.

Other reforms were either under way or planned, Señor Serra said, with two overall aims: to allow companies to become more competitive without reducing the number of employees, and to adjust the Spanish labour market to wider European conditions.

The underlying question is whether the government will have the will, and the political muscle, not just to pull Spain out of recession, but to carry through some fundamental reforms that are thought to be needed if the Spanish economy is to become competitive in the European Union. Since democracy returned to Spain after the death of General Franco in 1975, the overriding aim of all Spanish

governments has been to overcome the backwardness and isolation the country had known for many years; and with the rapid growth of the 1980s there were hopes of achieving that.

The onset of recession has revealed continuing weaknesses, however, and steps have been taken to address them. One was the rigidity of the employment laws, some not so different from those of the Franco era. The new legislation is designed to improve that by, for instance, allowing for part-time employment, and the taking on of young people as apprentices at lower wage levels, and in general making it easier to hire and fire.

For the moment, difficulties have been crowding in on the socialists thick and fast. In December, Promoción Social de Viviendas, a housing cooperative run by the Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT), the big socialist trade union confederation, collapsed; and this was followed by the near-collapse of Banco Español de Crédito (Banesto), Spain's fourth-largest bank, leading to the dismissal of its board by the Bank

of Spain and the appointment of a new team.

On January 27, the UGT and the Comisiones Obreras, the other main union confederation, called a one-day general strike in protest against the new employment legislation.

The strike slowed Spain down for a day, but it is not expected to deter the government from its reform

Europe has to deepen its economic and its political union. That will give Spain a stronger position

policies. It reflected the differences between a socialist government that has long been one of the most pragmatic and market-oriented in Europe and its former supporters in the unions. These differences are still being fought out inside the PSOE, where Señor González has tried to shake off the influence of the left, and will come to a head at a party congress next month.

In the background is the age-old tension between Madrid and the Spanish regions, whose most extreme manifestation is the continuing, though weakened, terrorist campaign by Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA), the Basque independence movement. The fact that the government is dependent on support from the CIU and the PNV in parliament has given moderate Catalan and Basque nationalists a greater degree of leverage. Both parties are basically in sympathy with the current reform moves, but have been pressing for the granting of greater autonomous powers in return.

At Catalan insistence, a new arrangement for the funding of the regions was agreed last autumn. This did not help the Basques, however, and both Miguel Roca, parliamentary leader of the CIU, and Señor Anasagasti want more. The Madrid government, they say, has still not fully carried out the terms of their original autonomy statutes, dating back to 1979.

There are significant differences between the Catalans, more nu-

merous and prosperous, and the Basques. Señor Roca points out emphatically that the CIU is not a separatist party, and sometimes gives the impression that the party's aim is far from secession from Spain, rather influence over the whole country.

Señor Anasagasti, on the other hand, caused a storm last month by publicly protesting against a speech by King Juan Carlos, made before a military audience, in which he made an oblique, and mild, reference to regional differences. "The diversity which enriches us", the King said, "must unite us rather than separate us".

By tradition, statements by the King are not publicly criticised in Spain, but Señor Anasagasti said that the speech had been "neither balanced nor just", and this was followed by fiery statements by other PNV leaders attacking the army and the Guardia Civil, the paramilitary police.

Señor Anasagasti said later that his objection was essentially to the audience before whom the King had spoken, since the position of the King should not be based just on "bayonets", but on the various constitutional bodies. He denied it,

but the assumption in other parties is that the PNV was looking ahead to the regional election in the Basque Country this autumn, when it does not want to be outflanked by the extreme nationalists.

In its foreign policy, the Spanish government retains its belief in closer integration in the EU, based on the Maastricht treaty and going beyond it. This is in spite of recent difficulties in the exchange rate mechanism, which led to the devaluations of the peseta, and the more general disenchantment with the integration process.

Spain has demonstrated its greater involvement in international affairs by sending troops to Bosnia, and taking part in other United Nations operations in Angola and Mozambique. Within the EU, it has pressed for more attention to be paid to future tensions in North Africa, with its growing populations and its political, religious and economic difficulties.

Officials concede that as a result of recent difficulties in the EU, and the recession, public enthusiasm for the process of European integration has waned in Spain. But Señor Serra says that enthusiasm would revive once the recession ended, and that Spain continues to believe in monetary union. "Europe has to deepen both its economic and its political union. That will give Spain a stronger position."

Labour plans key to recovery

Spain hopes flexible working will turn the economy round

Last year was one of the worst on record for the Spanish economy. It is 34 years since the country was in such a deep recession, with high unemployment and inflation, back in the dark days of Spain's isolation under the dictatorship of General Franco.

Spain's international credibility was also damaged, just before year's end, by the near-collapse of the country's fourth-largest bank, Banco Español de Crédito (Banesto).

To add to the catalogue of economic woes, the one-day national strike called on January 27 by Spain's two main trade union organisations, in protest against the government's reforms in the labour market, seriously disrupted industrial output.

Many economists believe that the Spanish economy has now touched bottom. But they are not predicting when the upturn will come, or how strong it will be, and Spaniards are generally unconvinced by the recent statement by Pedro Solbes, the economy minister, that recovery was around the corner, and would start in the second half of this year.

In the past 12 months, Spain had negative growth of almost a full percentage point year on year, in sharp contrast to the recent times when spectacular growth rates of 5 and 6 per cent saw the country begin to catch up fast with its wealthier neighbours in the European Community. The mood of confidence that allowed Spain, just two years ago, to organise not only Expo '92 at Seville but the Barcelona Olympics, has vanished.

So, too, has the talk of Spain being in a good position to meet the strict monetary and economic conditions laid down in the Maastricht Treaty for convergence with the strongest of the EC economies by 1997. It is now clear that it would take an economic miracle for Spain to comply with the Maastricht criteria. Judged on its present inflation



The economic policies of Prime Minister Felipe González have angered the unions

figures, interest rates and budget deficit, Spain seems on the way to joining the third rank of EC economies. Unemployment, for so long the endemic problem of the Spanish economy, continues its relentless rise. According to the most recent government figures, the number of people registered as jobless in December was more than 2.7 million, or 17 per cent of the working population.

The figure is even higher when Spaniards who do not register on the government's list are taken into account.

The latest official statistics, based on a poll carried out in September, reveal that the unemployment figure was possibly nearer 3.5 million. According to those figures, almost one in four of the Spanish workforce was without a job.

There are grounds for disputing the accuracy of these figures. While it is impossible to measure the real size of Spain's black economy, few doubt that it is considerable, and it is known that many people claiming benefit do, in

fact, have jobs. Nevertheless, Spain's unemployment rate is still reckoned to be running at about double the EC average. Inflation is proving difficult to keep under control, in spite of the recession. In January, prices rose by a full 1 per cent, bringing the annual rate to 5 per cent, well above the government's forecast. Public spending is still increasing. Mounting public debt and the growth of expenditure on general services meant that the budget deficit for 1993 rose to £17.5 billion, and that figure will rise further when spending by the regional governments is added.

Just about the only bright spot on the horizon recently has been an improvement in the balance of trade figures. A perceptible rise in Spanish exports and greater earnings from tourism can both be put down to a weaker peseta, which has undergone three devaluations in the past 18 months.

The government's response to the ailing Spanish economy has been to insist on greater flexibility in the labour market and on moderate wage claims.

Both are considered vital if Spain's competitiveness is to be improved. After the uncertainties arising out of last year's inconclusive election, several months were lost trying unsuccessfully to get a package of measures agreed between the government, the trade unions and the leaders of Spanish business.

In the end, the government decided to proceed with a policy of moderate reforms in the labour market, making it less expensive for employers to lay off workers and allowing new contracts to be issued on a temporary basis. These measures, described by the unions as the most regressive in recent history, prompted last month's general strike.

Five years ago, after the government had threatened tighter monetary and fiscal policies, the unions mobilised most of the country against belt-tightening. On that occasion, they were successful in reversing government policy. This time, it seems unlikely that they will succeed. But it remains to be seen whether the government's measures will prove sufficient, on their own, to turn round the Spanish economy.

FRANK SMITH

Try US. Fly US.

Business

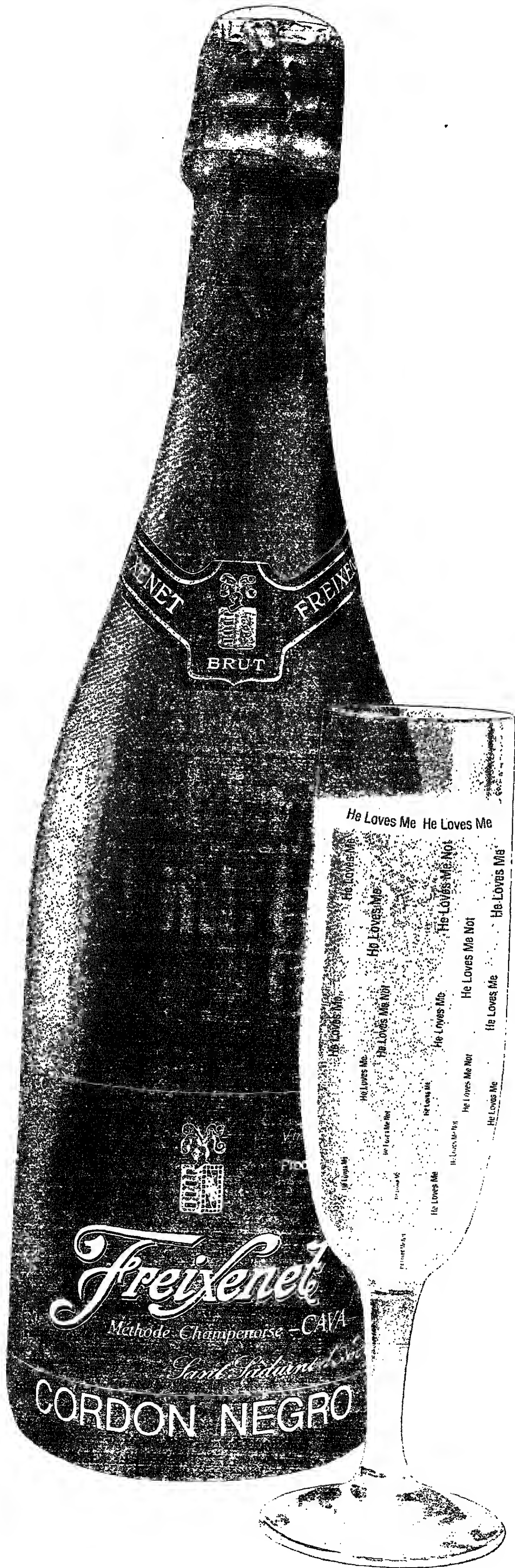
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SPANISH
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Tourism off the beaten track

Despite its economic problems, Spain is attracting more British tourists than ever. Already the Spanish Tourist Office in London has been warning travellers to confirm their bookings before joining the summer rush, as it fears overbookings. But Spain has more to offer than crowded beaches; there is a rich historical heritage to be found inland.

Perched on Spain's central mesa, or plateau, Madrid is one of the highest cities in Europe. It is surrounded by a cluster of remarkable old cities — particularly Toledo, Segovia, Avila and Salamanca — that are packed with Spanish history, and all within easy reach of the capital, by train, bus or car.

Madrid is the gateway among them, having been little more than a small town before Philip II picked it as his capital in the 16th century. The other four cities all go back to Roman times, or even earlier, were occupied by the Visigoths and the Moors, and flowered under Spanish rule during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Each also makes its own dramatic impression today. Toledo is piled up a steep, rocky bend in the river Tagus, in a setting made famous by El Greco, while Segovia stands on an outcrop of rock like a ship under full sail. Avila, high on a plateau of its own, is still surrounded by a massive stone wall, visible from miles away, which was built in the 11th century. The buildings of the university city of Salamanca, in a glowing golden stone, tower over the long Roman bridge that crosses the river Tormes at its foot.

Castile and the *meseta* are in many ways the heart of the country, a harsh region with a severe climate, cold in winter and hot in summer. This is the land of castles

Spain has much more to offer travellers than its beaches, explains Peter Strafford

and windmills, of roast lamb and sucking pig, and of memories of the long struggle between the Christians and the Moors.

You need to allow plenty of time to see everything in these cities. Toledo is a treasure house of art and architecture, while Salamanca is a city of great charm with some outstanding buildings. But it is possible to make a quick trip that will show the best of Segovia and Avila, which are only 40 miles apart, and are a study in contrast.

The outstanding monument in Segovia is the Roman aqueduct, a massive but graceful structure built in the 1st century and still used until recently. At the opposite end of the old hilltop city are the almost fanciful turrets and keep of the *alcázar*, or castle, while around them are narrow streets, picturesque squares, and one of the best collections of Romanesque churches to be found in Spain.

Most of these churches have a style distinctive to Segovia, with tall towers and arched galleries along the sides. They range from the magnificent San Esteban, whose tower with five ranges of arched domes dominates one of the squares, to the tiny, 12-sided chapel of Vera Cruz, built by the knights of the Holy Sepulchre in the 13th century, which stands alone on the *meseta* far below.

One church that is not Roman-

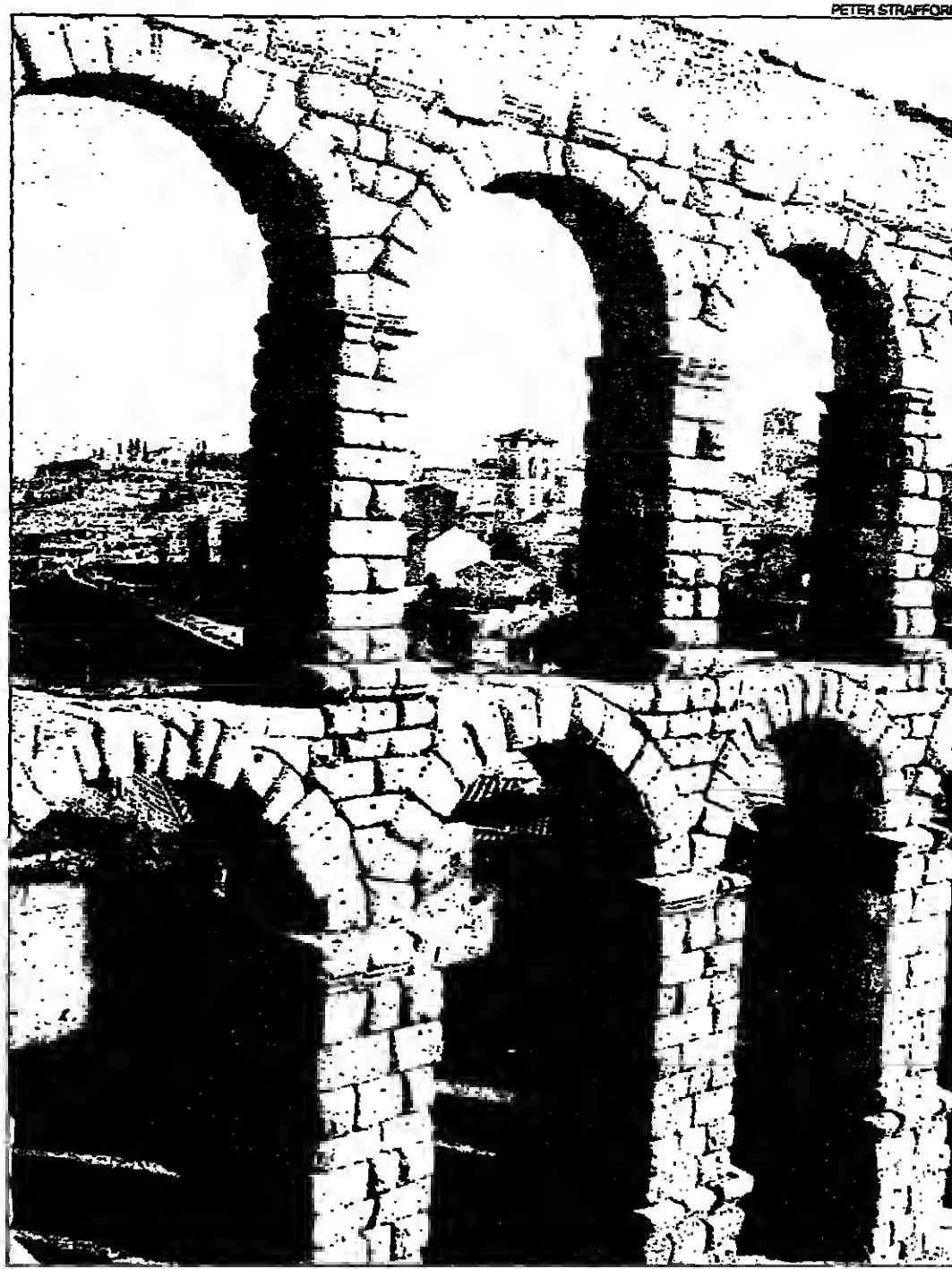
esque is the 16th-century cathedral, one of the last achievements of Spanish Gothic, which combines massive size with extraordinary lightness. Its flying buttresses and pinnacles tower over the Plaza Mayor, near which Isabella was proclaimed queen of Castile in 1474. Down a side-street is a relic of Spanish Jewry, a synagogue that was turned into the church of Corpus Christi after the Jews were expelled in 1492.

Avila makes a sharp contrast to the golden stone of Segovia, with many of its buildings constructed from a grey granite which is less easily carved. But the city's walls are one of the most remarkable relics of the Middle Ages, with their huge gates and bastions. Avila, too, has its churches, together with the palatial residences of Castilian aristocrats.

Avila is also known for its most famous resident, St Teresa, the mystic who was born in the city in 1515 and went on to found convents all over the country. There are three convents in the city which keep her memory alive — Santa Teresa, La Encarnación and San José.

Avila's cathedral is an austere and imposing Gothic building, much of it built in granite, whose east end is part of the city walls. Nearby is the more delicate San Vicente, a large and beautifully proportioned Romanesque basilica, with fine carvings around its south and west doors; and another Romanesque church, San Pedro, is the focal point of the busy and attractive Plaza de Santa Teresa.

It is worth walking from the centre of Avila to see the monastery of Santo Tomás. This was patronised in the 15th century by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, and it has three cloisters, two of them elaborately carved.



Travellers are attracted by Spain's heritage, such as the magnificent Roman aqueduct in Segovia

Building on the foundations of new-found freedom

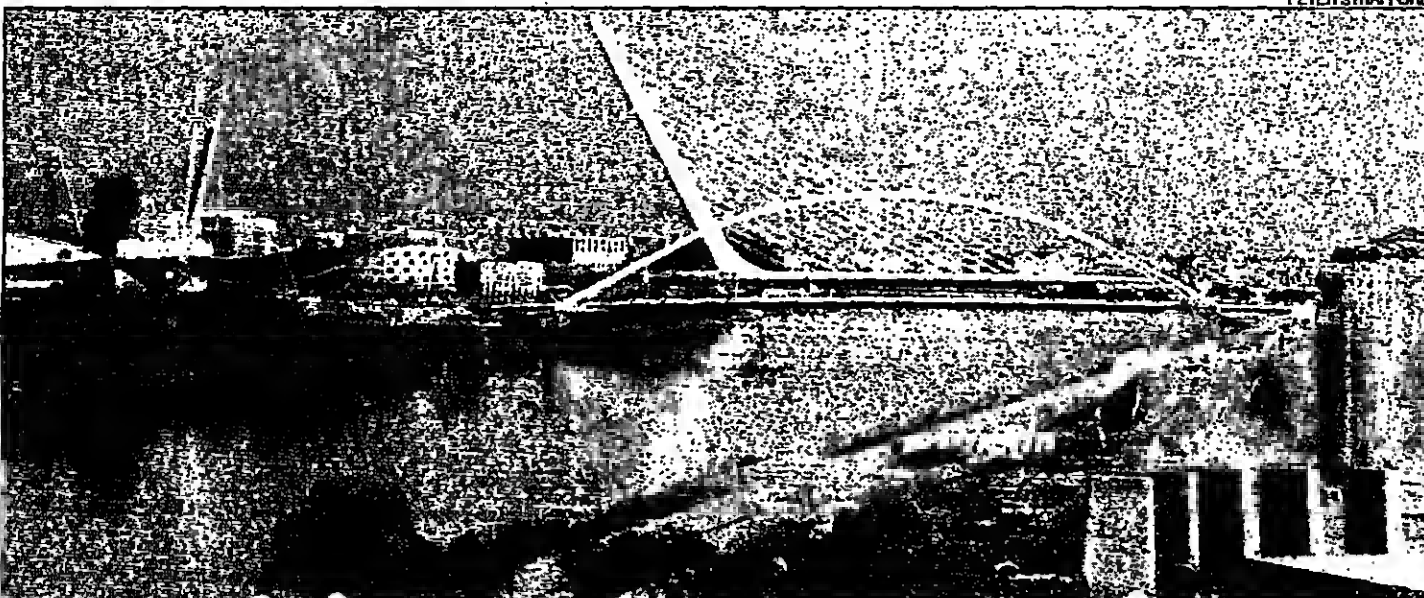
A new wave of architects is taking Spain in a bold direction

During the Franco years few names in Spanish architecture were known abroad. Outstanding work was done in protecting the historic centres of Spain's old cities, but some of the brightest sparks went north of the Pyrenees. Santiago Calatrava, settling in Zurich and Ricardo Bofill finding work in France.

All this has changed. New architecture has been seen as a means of expressing Spain's new-found democratic freedoms. Spanish architects have been showing a verve and originality that have led to commissions not just in Spain, but also abroad. The most striking of these is Calatrava's new station for the TGV, or high-speed train, at Saltillo, outside Lyons.

Spanish architects look particularly to the classic early Modern Movement, with its simple geometric volumes, flat roofs and flat facades. These came into vogue in the 1930s, and then there were the two great catalysts of the Barcelona Olympics and Expo '92, the Seville world fair, both held in 1992 and preceded by a wave of new building. For 10 years Spain has been bursting with French-style grand public projects, with a new grandeur and even monumentalism.

No architect is more distinctive than José Rafael Moneo. His museum of Roman art in Mérida, in Extremadura, is a supremely elegant evocation of the architecture of antiquity in a modern idiom. The main hall has the scale of the imperial baths in Rome and the beautiful interior brickwork of Roman basilicas. Still more monu-



The futuristic El Alamillo bridge in Seville was designed by Santiago Calatrava, one of the country's most original architects

mental is his airport at Seville, so solid and impenetrable-looking on the outside that you could mistake it for Fort Knox. Inside, the concourse is a modern Alhambra, with a dozen beehive domes resting on Moorish arches.

Seville's new Santa Justa railway station, by Antonio Cruz and Antonio Ortiz, has been likened to a

slumbering behemoth with a curving canopy projecting like a vast tongue. Inside, a huge shoebox ticket-hall and gentle ramps to the platforms are, to an English eye, a little too reminiscent of Euston, but the platform roofs, a dramatic trio of parabolic arches, add a new chapter to railway architecture.

The man who, above all, is

taking architecture in an adventurous new direction is Santiago Calatrava. His buildings and bridges move towards the realm of sculpture and natural forms. His bridges in Barcelona and Seville are modern icons, with bow-shaped trusses and cable-stays tense like the strings of giant lyres and harps. Bofill's supercharged creations,

such as his vast new quarter in Montpellier, mix historical elements to produce startling surreal results.

In domestic architecture, one building stands out for sheer ambitious individuality — the Villa Escorial in Mallorca by Josep Martorell, Oriol Bohigas and David Mackay. This is a Balearic

counterpart to John Outram's sensational New House in Sussex, reinterpreting historic forms in a bold modern idiom.

The shallow pitch of its tiled roof and the terraces expanding into the landscape have a touch of early Frank Lloyd Wright. What makes the building so original is the wonderful sense of texture and colour.

One of the more interesting trends is the careful revival of traditional styles. This is not what is so often derided as pastiche, but a dignified return to local forms, materials and craftsmanship. It is happening in simple, whitewashed houses with sash windows on the island of Minorca, and in the colonnades surrounding a new rural centre at La Rigada, near the town of Muskiz, outside Bilbao, by Javier Cercas and Inigo Salas.

The latest trend in new architecture is Deconstruction, the process whereby walls and roofs lean at disturbing angles suggesting a building is literally exploding. A suave example is the Hostalets Civic Centre in Barcelona by Enric Miralles and Carme Pinos, composed as a series of dagger-like shards.

The same architects have produced the Cubiertas in the Paseo Icaria in Barcelona's Villa Olímpica. This is described as "a festive procession of giant puppets", but is more like a streetscape of lamp-posts and telegraph poles shattered by an earthquake.

Similar wit is at work in a new office building by Andrés Perea in Tres Cantos, outside Madrid, where a rhomboid block has been split into two revealing sparkling walls of glass, like a piece of quartz — matt on the outside and gleaming within.

MARCUS BINNEY

SPANISH FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITS GREAT AND GOOD

Spain is putting on an ambitious arts festival in London this spring, which will show off Spanish achievements in a wide range of the arts, writes Peter Strafford.

"Ficus: Sculptor/Painter", at the Tate Gallery, opens the festival on February 16, and the last event will be an exhibition of small paintings by Goya at the Royal Academy, closing on June 12.

Lord Douro, chairman of the festival committee, says: "We have brought together an impressive collection of not only the best, but also the lesser-known aspects, of what Spain has contributed in the areas of art, architecture, dance, drama, film, music, painting, photography and sculpture."

The painters represented will include, apart from Picasso and Goya, Zurbarán and Dalí; and

there will also be modern art. In dance, there will be performances at Sadler's Wells by the Ballet Cristina Hoyos and the Compañía Nacional de Danza.

The Compañía Nacional de Teatro Clásico will be performing *La Gran Sultana* by Cervantes, also at Sadler's Wells, and there will be 19 concerts of Spanish music, classical and modern, including a performance on April 7

at the Queen Elizabeth Hall by the Orquesta de Cámara Teatre Lliure of Barcelona.

There will be Spanish films at the National Film Theatre, photography at the Photographers' Gallery, and an exhibition devoted to Santiago Calatrava, the architect, at the Bruton Street gallery.

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Bilbao, in the Basque Country, one of Spain's "historic nations"

Regions compete for power and money

A system designed to hold the nation together is showing signs of strain

One of the great challenges of Spain's political transition in the 1970s, from dictatorship to democracy, was how to defuse the conflict between centralism and regionalism that had dogged the country throughout the centuries. The fathers of the new democratic constitution devised a formula dividing Spain into 17 autonomous regions, and set in motion a process by which powers were gradually transferred from the centre, culminating in a large degree of home rule.

Only Germany, among Spain's European Union partners, has gone further down the road of decentralisation. Yet Spain remains a highly centralised country. Every region has a government and a regional assembly of its own, chosen in elections held every four years. They provide services that vary from region to region. In the Basque Country, the regional government raises taxes and pays for its own police force, which works in tandem with Spain's national police and the Guardia Civil.

Catalonia does not have the power to raise taxes, but it does have a police force, and over the years has secured the control of several public services, ranging

from education to a Catalan health service. In other regions, devolution has been slower.

The choice of a quasi-federal state divided into 17 regions was arbitrary. Spain does not naturally divide into so many parts. There have always been regions with distinct cultural and political identities, and the Basque Country and Catalonia, two of the "historic nations" of Spain, each with its own language, fall into that category. But some of the regions are no more than administrative divisions.

These differences were built into the "process of the autonomics" on purpose. The formula was known as "coffee for all", and devised in order to prevent the historic nations from acquiring too much power and threatening the unity of Spain. In practice, it meant that whenever the Catalans or Basques raised the stakes by asking for more devolved powers from the centre, Madrid could try to water down their demands by using the needs of the other regions as a counter-balance.

It is a system that has worked for nearly two decades. But the strain is beginning to show, especially since last June's election, which brought the socialist government in Madrid into closer contact with the regional governments in both Catalonia and the Basque Country.

Felipe González, the Prime Minister, failed to win an overall majority in parliament. In order to ensure the survival of his minority government, he chose to court the nationalists, particularly the Catalans of *Convergència i Unió* (CiU), whose 17 seats in the Madrid parliament gave them the balance of power.

The Catalans, as is their wont, bargained hard. The result of their support for the Government's budget for this year was a new deal on the funding of the regions. It is a complex financial arrangement, whereby the central government returns 15 per cent of the income tax levied in each region to finance the services provided by the autonomous governments. The Basque Country, because of the fiscal

powers it already has, was excluded from the deal.

The new provisions were not liked by several regions, including the poorer ones. They accused the government of allowing the Catalans to dictate terms. Catalonia, with a higher per capita growth rate than the Spanish average, can indeed expect a greater share under the new system.

The dispute highlights a fundamental weakness in Spain's system of autonomous regions, its inability to treat all regions on an equal basis. It also points to the other big drawback inherent in this quasi-federal set-up. By establishing a constant bargaining process, it encourages each region to milk the system for what it is worth, and that has become expensive.

Last year, the budget for the Spanish regions accounted for more than 40 per cent of the national kitty. The transfer of powers to the regions has not, however, been accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the size of services provided by the central government. It is questionable how much longer the Spanish taxpayer can go on paying for this.

FRANK SMITH

Monetary link put at risk by economy

Spain fears it

cannot meet the Maastricht rules

Spain is a relative newcomer to the European political scene, having been cut off behind the Pyrenees in the days of the Franco dictatorship and, in practice, for many years before that, writes Peter Strafford.

So now that it is a fully paid-up member of the European Union, Nato and the various European organisations, it is still showing, in the words of one senior official, "the enthusiasm of a neophyte".

Spain continues to be a supporter of the principle of a common European currency, in spite of the battering that the peseta in particular and the EU's exchange rate mechanism in general have undergone in the last two years. It also believes strongly in the need for a common foreign and security policy in the EU, together with the institutional means to carry it out.

It has been disconcerting for Madrid, therefore, to realise that to meet the criteria of the Maastricht treaty for economic convergence will be an uphill, and very likely impossible, task. Steps are being taken to put the Spanish economy back on track after the recession, but the country has a high budget deficit, one of the highest rates of unemployment in the EU, and inflation that, although only about 5 per cent, is still above the EU average.

The policy of Felipe González's government has consistently been to make sure that Spain was in the front rank of EU countries in the progress towards a common currency. But it now faces the prospect of being left behind.

To prevent this, the Government is insisting that when EU members meet, by the terms of Maastricht, to decide whether or not to move to the next stage of monetary union on January 1, 1997, the vote should be taken by a qualified majority of the present 12 members. Otherwise, the Spanish fear, with the EU enlarged by then to include some or all of the present applicants, Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway, the outcome of the vote could be very different.

The Spanish are uncomfortably aware that the four applicants all have stronger economies than their own. They are in favour of admitting the four, officials say, but want the present system of checks and balances to be maintained.

Spain also intends to take a tough line in the negotiations. Officials argue that enlargement should strengthen the union rather than weaken it, and are in no mood to make concessions to the would-be members over such constitutional questions as neutrality. Closer union does not mean, officials insist, that national states will disappear. But they argue that Europe will be richer if it is integrated, and are opposed to the notion that the EU should be diluted to become little more than a free trade area.

"Europe" has long held an almost mystical attraction for Spaniards. During the Franco regime it symbolised prosperity and democratic way of life from which they were excluded. Even now, when they have discovered that membership of the EU will not automatically resolve all their difficulties, and that on the contrary, adaptation to its requirements can cause pain, it has still not lost its attraction.

A region about which Spain has a particular concern, and has taken a distinctive stand in the EU, is the Mediterranean, and especially North Africa. Spain has historical reasons for preoccupation with North Africa, from which it is only divided by a narrow strip of sea. It argues that, with serious difficulties building up in Algeria, Egypt and elsewhere, Europeans have to ensure that their security is not threatened from that quarter. The difficulties are essentially economic at this stage, officials say. But they point out that whereas in 1958 two-thirds of the population surrounding the Mediterranean lived on its northern shores, by 2025 that same proportion will be living on the southern shores.

The populations of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania are growing by 2 million a year, they say. Over the next 30 years the present figure of 65 million is expected to rise to 130 million.

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Salary will be within the Lecturer A scale £13,601 - £18,855 per annum.

Further details and application forms, returnable not later than 11 March 1994, from the Personnel Office, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD. (Tel: 0602 515781). Ref No 1749.

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The University is seeking to appoint a distinguished scholar who has an acknowledged and successful record in any area of European, British, or local and regional Medieval History.

Second Chair of Modern History

The University is seeking to appoint a distinguished scholar who has an acknowledged and successful record in any area of Modern History of the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries, although British History is already well-represented in the School.

The School puts a high value on research and candidates for both chairs should have the academic and personal skills required to promote postgraduate recruitment and supervise research, as well as to teach at all levels, so maximising the potential of medieval history and of modern history, in both of which there is proven attraction and increasing demand.

The salary for each appointment will be in the non-clinical professional range.

The University of Leeds is an equal opportunities employer. Women and members of ethnic minorities are under-represented in the University in posts at this level and the University would therefore particularly welcome applications from members of such groups, whilst, however, affirming that the appointment will be made entirely on merit.

Further particulars may be obtained from (Mrs) Sally M D Wheeler, Personnel Director (Room 11/18), Office of the Registrar, the University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, Tel: 0532 335775 - direct line, quoting reference number 8/32 (Chair of Medieval History) or reference number 8/33 (Second Chair of Modern History).

The closing date for applications is: Friday, 18 March 1994.

The University follows an equal opportunities policy.

University of Cambridge

Professorship of European Law

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Further information from the Secretary General of the Faculties, General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge CB2 1TT. Applications (10 copies) marked 'confidential', with names of two referees by 14 March 1994.

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Informal enquiries about this post may be made to Professor Brian Napier, Director of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (Tel. 071 975 5125).

For an application form and further details, please telephone 071-975 5171, quoting Reference 94018. Applications should be returned by 28 March 1994 to the Recruitment Co-ordinator, Queen Mary and Westfield College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

Working Towards Equal Opportunities



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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Girton College intends to appoint a Bursar on either a full-time basis or a part-time basis to be responsible for the financial management of the College with effect from 1 September 1994. The person appointed will be elected to a Fellowship and will be an ex officio member of the College Council. The successful applicant should be a graduate and should have substantial administrative experience and good management and communication skills.

The appointment, which is open to men and women, will be for an initial period of three years, renewable thereafter for periods of five years, and for a full-time Bursar will carry a stipend within the range £20,000 to £27,000. The conditions of service are negotiable.

Before applying, applicants should obtain an application form and further particulars by sending a stamped addressed envelope (9in. x 5in.) to the Mistress, Girton College, Cambridge, CB3 0JG. The closing date for applications is 1 March 1994.

Girton College, which was founded in 1829 as the first women's college in the United Kingdom, has been mixed since 1977. It has some 90 Fellows, 500 undergraduates and 150 graduate students.

Further information and an application form may be obtained from: The Clerk, The Girton College Association, Eldon Chambers, 30 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AA. (Tel: 071-353 4309).

Final date for receipt of completed applications is 11th March 1994.

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Applicants should be accompanied by a full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees whom the College can contact immediately.

The salary will be a scale ranging from £22,000 - £25,000, and appointments will be for two years, with the possibility of renewal. Further particulars are available from the Principal and Secretary.

Applications (10 copies) should be sent to the Principal's Secretary, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford OX2 8QA. Tel: 01865 274302, fax 01865 511069 by 11 March 1994.

Applications should be accompanied by a full curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees whom the College can contact immediately.

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



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The successful applicant will be a graduate and a practising member of the Roman Catholic Church.

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مكتبة الامم

EDUCATION

Technology has brought a revolution to the school library and the university campus — but there are dangers

Please sir, what are books for?

The rush to introduce CD-Rom must be treated with care, says John O'Leary

A subtle revolution is under way in British schools that could eventually change the way children learn. It is starting in the library, and is already dividing educationists.

The source of the change is a new generation of educational technology, and in particular the CD-Rom. Three-quarters of secondary schools now have the hardware to use these powerful computer discs, and only last Friday the Government announced a £4.5 million programme for primary schools.

There has been a series of government programmes, dating back to 1980 and totalling some £165 million, to encourage the spread of information technology in schools. The Education Department has already put £8 million into CD-Roms for the secondary sector.

Before long, most pupils will be researching projects and even having lessons on screen. Eric Forth, the schools minister, said: "Pupils will have access to enormous amounts of data — text, graphics, sound and even moving pictures — on one digital compact disc. Pilot studies have already shown that this is a powerful resource with potential for all areas of the curriculum."

The CD-Rom has enormous capacity. It is now possible to fit the Bible, the complete works of Shakespeare and Encyclopaedia Britannica on a single disc.

When schools were first encouraged to invest in the new technology, relatively little educational material was available. But now everything from the Guinness Book of Records to a limited range of encyclopaedias is marketed to schools, colleges and universities.

The Times and The Sunday Times were among the first in the market, with CD editions that now attract 1,400 subscribers, 80 per cent of which are schools. Changing Times, a compilation of reports on historic events, launched four months ago, has already sold 1,500 copies, and last week The Times



The world at their fingertips — students at the Bacon's City Technology College, using high-tech equipment which gives them access to huge amounts of information

Some librarians worry that they may be encouraging their pupils to neglect the most basic skills

Educational Supplement launched its Bookfind disc, listing and reviewing 500,000 titles.

However, the new generation of sophisticated educational software raises difficult issues for education. Does the learning process become so passive that children cease to think for themselves? Will pupils not use the system as a short-cut, avoiding the need to read books?

The new software is undoubtedly impressive. Animation or video pictures can bring a subject to life in a way that cannot be matched in books, search facilities lead the student on instantly to further areas of research, and sound is an important bonus for many subjects.

Children of the video age — especially those with little tradition

of books at home — find obvious attractions in such an approach. But some librarians worry that they may be encouraging them to neglect basic skills.

Some indexes will accept "approximate" spellings, for example, removing one incentive to tackle a common area of weakness. Another worry is the "out-and-paste" facility, which enables users to copy blocks of text or illustration for use in their own work. Not only

is plagiarism an obvious temptation, but there are also copyright implications.

Mary Mabey, the resource centre manager at Bacon's City Technology College, in south London, and editor of the *School Library 2000* journal, is an enthusiast for the new systems, but one who recognises the dangers. Her library is the state-of-the-art facility that many schools are trying to develop. The room is a hive of

activity, both in and out of lessons. In three years as a librarian, after an earlier career as a music teacher, Mrs Mabey has seen her job change out of all recognition. She has become an authority on the new technology, and is consulted regularly by the software companies as well as by colleagues in other schools.

"The CD-Rom can be an extremely positive and exciting vehicle for education, but certainly there are problems," she says. "Students can easily be brainwashed and get out of the habit of thinking for themselves."

The staff, too, have their problems. Mrs Mabey has helped several computer-phobic librarians set up systems that have been lying unused in cardboard boxes.

She runs courses at the college to advise colleagues on the strengths and weaknesses of the new titles, which are now marketed fiercely by the software companies.

The prophets of high technology have long predicted the demise of the book. Schools are a long way from that point, and many still struggle to find the money to update their facilities. But the number of computers in schools more than doubled between 1988 and 1992, and the CD-Rom is spreading equally quickly.

As programmes are developed for the classroom, as well as the library, the practical and ethical issues associated with the new teaching technology will have to be faced in schools. It is already too late to turn the clock back.

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Mind your own business

"I HATE to say this, Spiro, but unless you do something quickly, you'll be out of business in a few months," said Spiro, making such a harsh statement. He felt his second-hand car sales business was really taking off at last.

"We'll have to put together a cash flow forecast," she said. Spiro dreaded these moments, when Maria started using words he only half understood.

IT COULD be a smidge of conversation in a soap opera, it could be real life. It is in fact Question 1 in a recent Business Studies A-level set by the Associated Examining Board. Candidates are provided with Spiro's turnover and have to help the poor chap from going bust. Unlike him, they must fully understand concepts such as "overdraft limit" and "official receiver".

Last year, 22,500 candidates took the subject at A-level, 15,000 of them with the AEB, which has offered Business Studies for 35 years. Other boards attract between 5,000 and 53 candidates. Overall, 80 per cent achieve an A-F pass, and 40 per cent manage between A and C.

"Business Studies is one of the growth areas," said Howard King of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. "Economics seems to be receding." As the old joke has it, in Economics they set the same questions every year: it's the answers that change. Business Studies is a lot less abstract.

Although pupils do not literally get their hands dirty in the used-car market, they are confronted with a wide range of realistic enterprises. Those taking the London Board syllabus at Hillslyde, the

sixth-form consortium of three south London comprehensives, have to start from scratch. "We've just learnt about finding a gap in the market," said Andrew Lumley, in his second term of this A-level course. "We invent our own business and they get bank managers to look at it."

"We've got them working in groups," explained Malcolm Stewart, the head of social sciences. "We are trying to get a realistic approach to business. They research a market and look at premises and equipment. One group is running a

We invent our own business and bank managers have a look at it

takeaway pizza place, another is running an all-woman cab service.

"The teacher's role is as a facilitator and adviser rather than as the transmitter of information. It's a very good way of building up knowledge of the business world: the language, procedures, structures — and contacts."

"Business ethics are part of the syllabus," he added. He had to remind one group, planning to run a specialist record shop, to keep their A-level on the level. They had the idea of selling bootleg products.

Yet one question from the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate explores the borderline between legal and illegal

activities. A brewery has to cope with the attentions of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the resignation of its chief executive. Furthermore, an intercepted conversation over a car telephone leads to a fall in the share price and, to cap it all, the former parapet runner running one of its pubs breaks both the arms of a customer who came at him with a broken glass.

Although Mr and Mrs Smith at Nature's Knitwear are much smaller beer, they, too, have tough decisions to make. In particular over the quiet period of the year when sales of their organic sweaters plummet: should they open on Sundays and risk a 50 per cent chance of a fine?

THE AEB also poses an ethical problem: "The Dumpit Corporation is a major local employer which processes low-level toxic waste. The directors are considering new plant to process high-grade — and therefore more dangerous — waste products." Candidates must outline the different sorts of waste liable to hit the fan if Dumpit goes ahead.

The Industrial Society is involved with AEB's Business Studies course. Roger Opie, head of education, said: "It is particularly relevant at the moment as a bridge subject between the academic and the vocational. My plea is that the subject is recognised not just by employers, but as an access route into further education. I'm not sure it makes people more streetwise," Mr Opie admitted, "but it brings entrepreneurial skills to the surface."

However, there is no guarantee that business studies will turn a sixth-former into another Richard Branson.

JONATHAN SALE

Discipline the parents first

Good order cannot be maintained if parents are too ready to challenge the authority of a head

Last week's MORI poll on parents' reasons for choosing independent schools had "good discipline" in its accustomed place near the top of the list. Yet, judging by the experiences of some of my colleagues in the Headmasters' Conference, some parents regard good discipline as exercising strict control over their children while overlooking the serious misdemeanours of their own.

It does not surprise heads that they are expected to exercise the wisdom of Solomon in their judgments, but even Solomon was not subjected to a series of appeals after he made his decisions. There was a time when parents accepted the decisions of those to whom they entrusted their children. Nowadays, they are encouraged to challenge professional judgments, to bring matters before the governors and even to put their case before solicitors.

The Government has rightly accepted good discipline as a high priority in its efforts to improve schools. Its much-publicised programme for cutting truancy is just part of this. However, the emphasis in the Parents' Charter on "parents knowing better than our mostly excellent teachers" and on measures to bring governors more and more into the day-to-day running of schools have not added to the authority that heads rely on to promote high standards of discipline.

When pupils are expelled, the implication is that discipline in the school must be poor and that the head must have behaved in an arbitrary and autocratic manner. The truth, however, is that only in the most exceptional of circumstances are children dismissed. Obviously, in cases of violence against other children or a teacher, you would expect nothing less. But in most instances of exclusion, the pupil has a long history of flouting school rules or even the law. The whole gamut of counselling, cajoling, encouragement and punishment will have been tried.

School rules are designed to promote good discipline, and to create a safe and pleasant environment within which children can be properly educated. Pupils and parents know these rules; indeed, they usually sign their acceptance of them. Would anyone doubt the wisdom of

stringent rules against drugs, including possession as well as consumption and dealing? All schools make it clear that breaking this rule will lead to expulsion. If a "second chance" philosophy prevails, or if some drugs are regarded as more acceptable than others, it won't be long before schools introduce American-style "smoking zones" where anything goes.

When it comes to sexual activity, parents often expect schools to exercise a control over their children which they have failed to exercise themselves. While some children in day schools find there are few restrictions, coeducational boarding schools are expected to maintain strict standards. However, where action is taken to punish those who seriously transgress the rules, heads cannot always be sure of the understanding of the parents involved.

In all these matters, schools are expected to maintain standards that others in society have abandoned. The time is ripe for a new Parents' Charter, one which stresses parents' responsibilities and the importance of their support for the school. Discipline cannot be maintained if parents appeal against every decision.

The time-consuming appeals systems which operate in the maintained sector add greatly to the workload and stress of the head and senior teachers. Last week, a headmaster showed me a file of more than 100 pages on just one exclusion. The many hours taken up by these processes could have been used to improve the education of more law-abiding pupils.

Moreover, it is difficult to understand how those on appeal committees — who do not know the pupils, the parents or the circumstances of the school — are in a better position than the head to make such judgments.

Governors of independent schools take great care over the appointment of their headmasters so that decisions relating to the day-to-day running can be delegated to them. It is good that in all but exceptional cases the head can rely on the governors to support whatever action is taken. Long may this continue.

● Vivian Anthony, the secretary of the Headmasters' Conference, was Headmaster of Colfe's School from 1976-1990.

Terms on the terminal

Students may soon be taking courses via video links and computer software

In the campus of the future, students will not have to attend a single university, but instead will enjoy associate membership of them all. Lectures on Monday will come courtesy of Cambridge; tutorials on Tuesday will be given by a professor at Manchester; research on Thursday will use the library at Liverpool — and all without the students ever needing to leave their bedrooms.

The key is information technology. The computer equivalent of an 0800 telephone call will allow students to access services across the country, paying individual universities and professors by the minute for their expertise. For the personal touch, there will even be live two-way video links.

Much of this technology is already available. More and more businesses are holding "video-conferences" from their senior executives' desks rather than fly them across continents. Companies such as British Aerospace and Black & Decker routinely hold "face-to-face" meetings by linking offices. In Japan, teachers give live lectures by satellite to private after-school cramming clubs.

Although such technology has yet to transform the way British students learn, its effect is already being felt by academic researchers. The British Computer Library Society estimates that a student researching computing in 1983 would have had a bank of around 1,150 works to consult, but today there are more than 14,000 computing text books available. And the trend holds true across the whole academic spectrum.

The danger for higher education is that students and tutors are tempted to assimilate this vast stock of informa-



No more hours in the library

tion rather than pioneer new thought. This risk has been recognised by some universities, which believe easy access to information is imperative.

The University of Tilburg in The Netherlands is pioneering a project to create a "library without walls". Information is being stored electronically, allowing easy access from across the campus.

Cranfield University, near Milton Keynes, has launched an initiative to create a "virtual library" — that is one without books. Students will eventually be able to use software to access reports and journals from across the world, rather than relying on university librarians to hunt down, order and store the texts.

Other universities, such as Nottingham, Birmingham, Leeds, Heriot-Watt and Southampton, are also experimenting with computerised courseware. This could result in teaching being delivered by a range of electronic media, allowing students to take lectures at their own pace.

The implications for higher education are enormous. Yet, some argue British universities, bound by spending constraints, are losing out. The technology company Digital Equipment estimates current UK spending on information technology and education is around £440 million a year. But the company, in a report called "Campus of the Future", warns that most of the money is spent by individual departments without regard to an overall strategy.

John Ford, the report's author, says: "Current wisdom is that spending large sums of money on building new halls of residence is 'good' because buildings are assets. Plans to spend equivalent sums on information technology in order to change the way education is delivered are not even on the agenda. Yet these newly-acquired halls could drain university finances as the number of residential students dwindles."

BEN PRESTON

Reason for sale of business

Longden and Another v Ferrari and Kennedy International Ltd
Before Mr Justice Mummery, Ms S. Corby and Mr T. Thomas
[Judgment January 21]

Two employees could not claim that they had not been unfairly dismissed as a result of the sale of their employers' business by administrative receivers, since the sale was not effected by the series of transactions leading up to the sale of the business but by a single sale of assets agreement nearly two weeks later.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when construing regulations 34(1) and 5(3) of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (SI No 1741) and dismissing appeals by Mrs Rosemary Longden and Mr John Faisley.

In June 1992, a Bristol industrial tribunal had dismissed their claims for compensation for unfair dismissal against their previous employers, Ferrari Ltd, and the company to which the business was transferred, Kennedy International Ltd.

Regulation 34(1) of the 1981 Regulations provides: "It is hereby declared that a transfer of an undertaking or part of one may be effected by a series of two or more transactions between the same parties, but in determining

whether or not such a series constitutes a single transfer regard shall be had to the extent to which the undertaking or part is controlled by the transferor and transferee respectively before the last transaction, to the lapse of time between each of the transactions, to the intention of the parties and to all the other circumstances."

Regulation 5(3) provides: "Any reference... to a person employed in an undertaking or part of one transferred by a relevant transfer is a reference to a person so employed immediately before the transfer, including, where the transfer is effected by a series of two or more transactions, a person so employed immediately before any of those transactions."

By regulation 8(1) an employee was to be treated as unfairly dismissed if the transfer was the reason for the dismissal.

Mr Richard Calland for the applicants, Mr Hugh Jackson for Kennedy International, Ferrari did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the point raised was of general importance. Both the applicants had been employees of Ferrari in one of its divisions. In spring 1991 Ferrari fell into grave financial difficulties and in March 1991 administrative receivers were appointed.

The relevant events took place between March 7 and April 10 when a receivership sale of assets agreement was entered into between the receivers and Kennedy.

The crucial question was whether anything happened during that period which the tribunal should have held to be a series of two or more transactions by which the transfer of the undertaking was effected.

On March 14, the managing director of Kennedy contacted the receivers with a view to a possible purchase of some of Ferrari's undertakings. Negotiations proceeded and on March 26 the receivers solicitors faxed a letter headed "draft contract" and attached a draft contract relating to the sale of certain of Ferrari's assets.

On March 27 Kennedy agreed to pay the receivers £4,000 to enable Ferrari to keep "ticking over" for another week and on March 28 the receivers dismissed all those employees not specifically earmarked as essential to retain.

Negotiations resulted in the sale agreement dated April 10. The industrial tribunal considered the applicants' submission that although the agreement for sale was signed on April 10 the actual transfer was effected by a series of transactions. The tribunal's view was that the transfer was effected by the agreement on April 10. It followed that the

applicants were not employed in the undertaking of Ferrari immediately before the transfer of the undertaking.

The appeal tribunal considered that there was no error of law in the tribunal's decision. Even assuming in the applicants' favour that the events of March 26 and 27 formed a series of two transactions, the crucial question was whether the transfer was effected by a series of two or more transactions.

But what happened on March 26 and 27 and other dates before April 10 was a succession of events causally linked to one another and to the conclusion of the sale of assets agreement. That was not sufficient. The language of the regulations required that the transfer was "effected" by the transactions.

The tribunal were agreed that the industrial tribunal was correct in holding that neither applicant was employed by Ferrari immediately before the transfer.

The majority of the appeal tribunal agreed that neither applicant had been unfairly dismissed by Ferrari because the transfer was not the reason for the dismissals as required by regulation 8(1). The reason was financial constraints on Ferrari.

The appeal would be dismissed. Solicitors: T. Owen, Cairne, Clifton Ingram, Wokingham.

Loudon Manufacturing Co Ltd and Another v Courtauld's plc (trading as John Lean and Sons)
Before Mr Justice Aldous
[Judgment January 18]

An applicant for the registration of a trade mark under section 17(1) of the Trade Marks Act 1938 need not have a proprietary claim to it which, on challenge, he could substantiate. It is enough if he had a bona fide claim.

Mr Justice Aldous so held in the Chancery Division, in affirming the decision of the assistant registrar, of opposition by Loudon Valley Manufacturing Ltd and East Enterprises Ltd to applications by Courtauld's plc for entries of a mark comprising a box containing Arabic characters, under class 24 in respect of textile pieces goods and class 25 in respect of "headshaws".

Section 17 provides: "(1) Any person claiming to be the proprietor of a trade mark used or proposed to be used by him in relation to goods or services must apply in writing to the Registrar in the prescribed manner for registration either in Part A or Part B of the Register."

Mr Hugh Liddle, QC and Mr Martin Howe for the opponents; Mr John Baldwin, QC and Miss Mary Howe for Courtauld's.

MR JUSTICE ALDOUS said that John Lean and Sons had originally sold their top quality headshaws to a Mr Al Bassam, whose sales in Saudi Arabia had since about 1965 been handled by a Mr Aljain and his sons.

They concerned about imitations, had in the early 1970s agreed with John Lean that they would prepare a rubber stamp, identical with the mark in issue, for use on John Lean's headshaws, all of which had since then been supplied to the Aljains. The Arabic words constituting the mark were translated as "Headshaw Al Bassam original English".

The opponents contended that Courtauld's were not entitled to register the mark, because it belonged to the Aljains. Courtauld's claimed to be its proprietor but went further, submitting that section 17 was not concerned with who was the true proprietor, it only required an applicant to have a bona fide claim to be registered.

In order to resolve that issue, and to decide what was the proprietary right in question, it was necessary to go back to the position before the Trade Marks Act 1938.

That a trade mark was a species of incorporeal property had been established in *Millington v Fox* (1838) 3 My & Cr 338; its characteristics included a right to restrain others from using the mark and also incapacity to exist

Registration without ownership

of the 1833 Act. Under the 1905 Act it was contemplated that applicants would apply for registration of unused marks: clearly Parliament intended that the procedure for application and the power of the Registrar to register trade marks would be the same under section 12 as it had been under section 62 of the 1833 Act, although it was not thought necessary to provide that the application should be deemed to constitute use.

Thus section 12 reflected the real position: the Registrar could register a mark provided only that the applicant had a bona fide claim to be registered as the proprietor.

Since the opponents had not suggested that Courtauld's did not honestly believe it had a good claim to be registered, their submission on that issue had to fail.

As to the nature of the proprietary right in a mark, his Lordship:

believed that Mr Justice Lloyd-Jacob, in *Vincent's Ltd's Application for a Trade Mark* (1956) RPC 1 was mistaken in suggesting that such a right could be obtained by origination: there had never been any property in an unused mark until it had been used, deemed to be used, or registered. Even so, it

might have been correct, in that case, to take account of the facts when exercising the discretion given by the 1928 Act.

2 regarded the decision of Mr Justice Cross in *Rawhide Trade Mark* (1962) RPC 133 as consistent with his own view of section 17(1).

3 cited the decision of the same judge in *Genet's Trade Mark* (1968) RPC 148, where, distinguishing the *Vincent's* case, he held that the Registrar was entitled to register on the ground that their claim was bona fide.

4 dissented from obiter dicta by Mr Justice Whitford in *Karo Super Trade Mark* (1977) RPC 255 to the effect that "the applicant must be able to claim that he is entitled to a mark in which he has a proprietary interest, in the sense that he has an absolute right to use it" and that any such claim must be bad "if in fact, on copyright grounds, some third person is going to be in a position to stop the applicant using the mark at all".

Solicitors: Morrison Skirrow, Freshfields.

Price ticket discrepancy

Toys 'R' Us v Gloucestershire County Council
Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Sothby
[Judgment February 3]

Where there was a discrepancy between the price displayed on an item in a shop and the price displayed on the bar code and revealed a price for the item at the cash till.

If the cashiers found a price on the ticket lower than the price displayed on the till, they were instructed to charge the lower price.

Mr Treacy was correct in his submission that, for the purposes of section 20(1), the relevant time to ascertain the price at which the goods were available was the time at which the indication as to price was given. In this case, that was when an item was on the shelf with a ticket attached to it. The wording of the section and the authority relied upon by Mr Treacy, *Doble v Dowd Greig Ltd* (1972) 1 WLR 703, supported that.

In order to satisfy the requirements of section 20(1) it was not necessary to ascertain the correct price of an item.

The justices had departed in error from the statute which simply required the ascertainment of the price at which the goods were available, bearing in mind that the price was defined in section 20(6) as the sum "required to be paid by a consumer".

The price was ascertainable by reading the price ticket and was not conditional upon whether or not the cashier or customer noticed the discrepancy.

His Lordship said that since the

appellant had a policy which required cashiers to check the price ticket on any item after they had scanned the bar code and revealed a price for the item at the cash till.

If the cashiers found a price on the ticket lower than the price displayed on the till, they were instructed to charge the lower price.

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The price was ascertainable by reading the price ticket and was not conditional upon whether or not the cashier or customer noticed the discrepancy.

His Lordship said that since the

appellant operated a policy of charging the lower price, the justices should have started from the standpoint that an offence under section 20(1) could only be established if it could be shown that, despite the policy, in reality goods were not available at the ticket price.

In other words, the cashiers and customers did not notice discrepancies and correct them or cause them to be corrected.

If that was what the evidence showed, it would be open to the court to find that, even when goods were on the shelf, the goods were not in fact available at the ticket price and the price shown on the ticket was misleading because it was less than the price in fact.

In the context of the present case a trading standards officer examining identical articles for sale which bore different prices on their price tickets could call for the current price list in relation to those items, whether it be in documentary form or on a computer.

Under section 28 he had authority to make a test purchase but there was nothing in the statute authorising him to require that a till be closed down and made available for his use when scanning items.

Mr Justice Sothby agreed. Solicitors: Shoobush & Harrison, Mr Ian Wotherspoon, Gloucester.

When judicial intervention can be justified

Regina v Whybrow
Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice French and Mr Justice Pill
[Reasons January 21]

A Royal Commission recommendation to judges to become more interventionist so as to prevent trials becoming protracted was supported by the Court of Appeal when giving reasons for having quashed convictions and (ii) ordered a retrial and (iii) admitted two appellants to bail because the trial judge's interventions went far beyond the bounds of legitimate judicial conduct during their evidence.

The appeals were brought by Susan Whybrow and Dennis Richard Saunders against conviction at Norwich Crown Court before Mr Justice Ian Kennedy and a jury of conspiracy to murder her husband by making it look as if there had been an accident by his tractor-style lawnmower killing over, either crushing him or causing him to fall into a pond and drown.

They pleaded guilty to counts of conspiracy to cause him grievous bodily harm and kidnapping him.

Whybrow had been sentenced to eight years imprisonment and

Saunders to 10 years on the conspiracy to murder, with concurrent sentences of one year on each of the other counts.

Mr Julian BVC, QC and Mr Ian Croxford, QC for Whybrow; Mr Rock Tansey, QC and Mr Philip Statman for Saunders; Mr J. Charles Koller for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the reserved reasons of the court, said that the sole ground of appeal developed on behalf of each of the appellants was that they did not have a fair trial because of the conduct of the judge.

It was complained that he descended into the arena, prevented each of the appellants from giving evidence-in-chief properly and intervened with such frequency and hostility throughout their evidence as to deny them a fair hearing and convey to the jury his disbelief of their evidence.

His Lordship referred to *R v Hulst* (1973) 58 Cr App R 378 and *R v Matthews* (1983) 78 Cr App R 231, reviewed the events of the trial and said that Lordships were satisfied that the judge's interventions went far beyond the bounds of legitimate judicial conduct.

Their Lordships wished to make

clear that there were, of course, circumstances in which and purposes for which it was entirely appropriate for a judge to intervene during the evidence.

If a witness gave an ambiguous answer, the judge should have clarified as briefly as possible. If the answer was long or the judge did not hear it clearly, he could certainly have the repeat for the purposes of his note.

Furthermore, *The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice Report* (Cmd 2863 (1993) p19) recommended that judges should be more interventionist so as to prevent trials becoming protracted.

Their Lordships entirely supported that recommendation. Judges should intervene to curb prolixity and repetition and to exclude irrelevant, discursiveness and oppression of witnesses.

But all that was a far cry from what occurred here, where experienced counsel were seeking to do their duty without hesitation, deviation or repetition.

It was apposite to quote from the judgment of Lord Justice Croom in *R v Cunningham* (unreported, July 7, 1980 CA).

"The judge is not an advocate. Under the English and Welsh

system of criminal trials he is much more like the umpire at a cricket match.

"He is certainly not the bowler, whose business it is to get the batsman out."

"If a judge, without any conscious intention, is to be unfair, descends into the arena and asks great numbers of pointed questions of the accused when he is giving his evidence-in-chief, the jury may very well get the impression that the judge does not believe a word that the witness is saying and by putting these pointed questions, to which there is sometimes only a lame answer, he blows the evidence out of the water during the stage that counsel ought to be having the opportunity to bring the evidence of the accused to the attention of the jury in its most impressive pattern and shape."

"The importance of counsel having that opportunity is not diminished, indeed it is enhanced, if the evidence emerging in chief is a story that takes a bit of swallowing."

Their Lordships would stress that final sentence.

Solicitors: Kingsley Napley; Simon Muirhead & Burton; Crown Prosecution Service, Ipswich.

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by NICK DAWS
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OPERA page 38

Tim Albery, in charge of the first British staging of Massenet's ball of candyfloss, Chérubin

BOOKS page 39

Henry Roth, the nonagenarian American who took 60 years to write his magnum opus

ARTS

Haunted by a new kind of hero

Roger Boyes on the Spielberg film that is helping to open German eyes to the Holocaust

Oskar Schindler is a hero. Israel says so and those saved by him, the so-called Schindler Jews, agree. His former secretary is convinced, and so too is Hollywood. But is he a German hero?

Steven Spielberg's film, not due in Germany until March, has already opened up a raw debate. Why is it, asks *Die Zeit* newspaper, that Hollywood has to teach Germans their own history?

Schindler's List is the second major fictional treatment of the Holocaust to appear on German screens. The first — the American mini-series *Holocaust* — sent Germans into an emotional spin. That was in 1979. Since then much has happened: the two German states have merged into one (perhaps colluded is a more precise word), there have been furious intellectual exchanges about German collective responsibility for Hitler and Nazi war crimes. And neo-Nazi groups have gained a firm foothold in the political system — many of them denying that Auschwitz was ever a scene of mass murder. Hollywood, in other words, is about to educate yet another generation of Germans about Auschwitz.

It is worth recalling the *Holocaust* series because it marks a kind of watershed. Other Europeans either shrugged it off — the saga followed the lives of a Jewish family from Berlin to Warsaw and on to Auschwitz — as sickly sentimental or sentimentally sick. In Germany, though, it launched thousands of anguished conversations in pubs, living rooms and schools. Some 32 per cent of West Germans watched the first episode, but by the fifth instalment 47 per cent tuned in.

It was not the novelty of the information that drew this strong response. Between 1946 and 1979 German television viewers watched almost 50 documentaries on the Holocaust. Some of the productions were of remarkable quality. Eberhard Fechner's *Majdanek* and Erwin Leiser's *Eichmann und das dritte Reich* were models of engaged yet honest reportage. Moreover, the German school curriculum included compulsory visits to the nearest former concentration camp and classroom



Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson, right) discusses the fate of Jewish workers with labour-camp commandant Amon Goeth (Ralph Fiennes) in *Schindler's List*

discussions about Nazi victims. Every German adult should know, at least in a bookish way, the brute facts about the camps.

The missing element was personal identification. Few Germans know Jews nowadays; the Jewish community is a small one, a fraction of its pre-1933 size. It was difficult, therefore, for Germans to make the imaginative leap of identification with the victim. Jews were Jews, strange and remote. Even now, a new comic strip biography of Hitler, designed for schoolchildren, depicts murdered Jews with pale, anonymous faces. The need to build a bridge between a fresh generation, half a century distant from the crimes, and the victims prompted the directors of the American Holocaust Museum to introduce a radically different approach: each museum visitor adopts a real victim and follows the

appropriate biography to the end of the exhibition.

Schindler's List deploys similar tools to break through the wall of indifference. The mini-series addressed older Germans who, by the late 1970s, wanted to hear no more; and bored younger Germans who were beginning to argue that the fault lay not with them but with their parents' generation.

Spielberg's film arrives at a different moment in German history. East German children — now an integral part of German society — were not given a sense of collective guilt. Nor did history lessons even begin to resemble those in the West whereby the pupil is taken across a spectrum starting from German unity in 1871, through the first world war, to Hitler and on to the modern post-war state. As far as communist schools were concerned, the Nazi

years were part of West and not East German history. Spielberg's film is likely to sew some doubts, wake up a few teenagers, contribute in its way to the psychological unification of east and west.

Hollywood's talent for personalising catastrophe is all too clear in the Spielberg film. A small girl in a red coat — the only flash of colour in the black-and-white film — points the finger, performing the technical trick of the Holocaust Museum. But the chief shake-up of the film for German viewers will be the depiction of Schindler.

Spielberg's film has been described as his most mature (a double-edged compliment). Its maturity stems not only from the seriousness of the subject-matter, but from his betrayal of the hero.

Modern Hollywood heroes, certainly Spielberg's, are good guys who box their way out of difficult situations or who overcome physical and psychological hurdles to win love or respect or regain honour. Schindler, by contrast, is a drunkard, gambler, cheat, liar and womaniser. He uses these same weaknesses to pursue a morally distinctive goal: he drinks with Nazis to free Jews, he gambles, cheats and lies to save lives. The departure for Spielberg is plain: a bad, or at least weak, man who does good (admitting the possibility of a "good" man capable of doing bad, the ultimate Hollywood heresy).

For Germans, this is more than an interesting career development for Spielberg. Good Germans have been cast in a certain mould. Plots of West German historians have built up a biographical

dossier of the good German whose brave conduct and moral astuteness was supposed to show that clear moral choices could and should be made in war or crisis.

There was Count Stauffenberg, the war-wounded colonel who almost succeeded in blowing up Hitler in July 1944; and there were his many co-conspirators, all strung up on meat hooks by Hitler. There were the Munich students, Hans and Sophie Scholl, who formed the small, doomed White Rose resistance group. There were courageous priests and some doughty communist oppositionists. Yet these heroes and heroines often appear remote for modern

Germany: either emerging as near saints or, as in the case of the July 1944 plotters, aristocratic officers playing their own political game. Schindler does not conform to the pattern. He was a cad who per-

formed nobly, a man who quite unexpectedly made the right choices.

Little wonder, then, that Schindler, awarded for his bravery by other countries, was ignored in Germany. After returning from South America to live in Frankfurt, he dabbled unsuccessfully in business. In 1974 he died in the city, poor and neglected. Until this year, not a single monument was erected to him and not a single street bore his name. Prodded by the film (rather than Thomas Keneally's book, which made little popular impact in Germany), Frankfurt city council has now unveiled an Oskar Schindler Strasse. It is a small, shabby street, difficult to find.

Reporters have tracked down Schindler's former secretary, Elisabeth Tont, who supports Spielberg's picture of the man. But she remembers he always had a slippery reputation in his home town. "Even after the war," she said in an interview, "they didn't really believe that he did good things. They said, for example, that the Jews bribed him with money and all imaginable things. But, you know, it was actually the poorest of the Jews that he helped — at that stage of the war they had nothing to give."

Thus Hollywood is helping to open some eyes in Germany. Perhaps in a crude recompense for the decades of monogamy, heel-clicking SS men who have invaded German cinemas and television over the years: a subtle German war hero to replace the caricatured villain peddled by countless American films.

Still, the question nags: why should this insight arrive from abroad and not be home-baked? There have been German-made war films. Wolfgang Petersen (later to make *In the Line of Fire*) made his name with *Das Boot*, the adventure of an embattled submarine crew, and Joseph Vilsmaier directed *Stalingrad*, which drew about 1.5 million German cinema-goers last year. Yet both films end up casting the Germans as victims — of the superior officers of war, of history — rather than heroes.

The essentially passive approach remains. Germany's war history is untouchable for German feature film-makers. Germany is in the throes of rediscovering, perhaps even reinventing, its recent history. It is caught somewhere in limbo between old taboos and new ideas. Film-makers usually thrive in such a borderland. Not, however, Schindler: though not yet, Auschwitz looms so large that it has become invisible.

THEATRE: The Middle East provides a new setting for Beckett

Accent on despair

Waiting for Godot
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

Oppressed Romania yesterday, beleaguered Sarajevo today, and no doubt somewhere else tomorrow. Beckett's *Godot* may be about mankind's perverse passion for castles in the air and pie in the sky, but it is a play that can also take on more particular meanings, depending on who performs it, where and when.

That was pretty obviously so on the famous occasion in 1957 when the play was staged by prisoners at San Quentin in California. It was also so when John Kani and Winston Ntshone brought it to London from South Africa some 15 years ago: two tattered blacks who had "lost their rights" helplessly waiting in the dirt for a saviour. What, then, were we to expect from Efendi Productions, a new company which hopes to "strengthen the cultural bridge between the Levant and their neighbours in southern and western Europe"? A Palestinian, Lebanese or Kurdish *Godot*, a sort of *Waiting for Boutros-Ghali*?

Well, conceivably. The main actors both have Middle Eastern roots and affect a Middle Eastern

look. Nadim Sawalha's Vladimir wearing a long blue robe over his filthy vest. Kevork Malikyan's Estragon a grubby white smock and black waistcoat. Beside them is the "low mound" Beckett's stage directions specify: but it consists of baked clay with shards sticking out of its top and hieroglyphics carved into the antique bricks below. Moreover, director Lisa Forrell has cut Estragon's claim that he is unluckier than Christ, who lived in a warm, dry climate and was "crucified quick". Countries don't come much hotter or more arid than the one on show here.

Yet the actors seem oddly unaffected by the years they have presumably been stuck in this punishing hole. It is not just that Vladimir's hands looked as clean as a baby's on the first night, while Estragon's "stinking" feet seemed just to have emerged from a

bubble-bath. Though Sawalha achieves a fine gravity at the end, he and his fellow tramp fail to embody the exhaustion, pain and desperation behind the chatter and the downliness. Indeed, Malikyan becomes positively jaunty in the second act, in defiance of a text that shows him to be far the more negative and self-pitying of the two.

The production lifts with the appearance of Bruce Purchase's Pozzo and Ben Daniels's Lucky, though the latter is oddly cast. That long, fractured outpouring of despair should surely be an old man's requiem for humanity, not an accusing rant from the kind of pale, ill-fed young man you nowadays see squatting with his dog beneath Waterloo Bridge. But Purchase's blimp-in-the-tropics ("Do I look like a myan who can be myade to suffah, frenkly?") extends the play without distorting the role. The Levant may still await its *Godot*, but it has seen more than enough of smug, domineering men from the West.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

TELEVISION REVIEW

Fresh face but same old stuff

ALL last week the tabloids charted the fever of anticipation sweeping the nation. A breakfast television presenter called Chris Evans was to be paid £1.3 million to host the thing. Because the first pilot programme was so dire, Channel 4 spent an estimated £400,000 on three more pilots. A "commissioning editor for youth television" declared that one, or possibly even two, of the pilots was actually of broadcastable quality. Reassuring news indeed.

Meanwhile, some genius at Channel 4 announced that the show would have a "20th-century musical icon" appearing each

All right, one could argue that the punters deserve it for agreeing to appear. But one had to feel sorry for the young lady from Highgate, plucked out of the audience and forced by the overbearing Evans to share with millions the knowledge that she was £700 in debt to her bank and she had just been jilted by her boyfriend. She was then coaxed into kissing a stranger for 30 seconds in order to win £1,000.

That was one sideshow. Another was a quiz contest between Sandie Shaw and her greatest fan on the subject of Ms Shaw's career: the fan won, naturally. Finally came the main event: the selection of the couple who would win a week in Mauritius, starting there and then (hence the programme's title). The whole show was frantic, loud and unrelentingly jolly — like a Club 18-30 holiday without the bonking.

It was like a
Club 18-30
holiday without
the bonking

Because it was on Channel 4, one somehow expected it to be a shade more sophisticated, more deconstructed, more ironic than a straightforward ratings-grabber such as *Blind Date*. But Channel 4 these days has to scabble for audience figures like any other network. As for Evans — the "hottest property on television", according to the media pundits — he seems about to cast himself as the Bruce Forsyth of the 1990s. The man undoubtedly has talent: is this really what he wants?

RICHARD MORRISON

ROCK: A vocalist who gets by without singing a note

Poetry in rare motion

The Blue Aeroplanes
Grand, Clapham

yet at no time betraying any dancing or movement skills whatsoever, not even a sense of rhythm. Looking more like a Morrissey fan who breached security than anything to do with the performance, he is a constant distraction throughout.

Although Langley and his frequently inscrutable wordplay is the group's *raison d'être*, the true essence of the Blue Aeroplanes' appeal is the extraordinarily evoca-

tive weave of melody, rhythm and riff provided by the group's guitarists. These Langley seems to hire in three or four at a time and by the week. In fact, there are eight of them (including bassist Roger Power) on stage during the encore, but for the bulk of the show they manage with just the two. Rodney Allen and John Wygens, both recent recruits.

Perhaps it is finding themselves less mob-handled than in the past that persuades the band to crank up the volume to a point well beyond the optimum for their elegant, old-fashioned style of indie-rock. But whatever the rea-

NOW that Radio 1 is broadcasting poetry readings, will it find time to feature the Blue Aeroplanes more often? For, although many lyric writers like to think of themselves as poets, there has never been another rock group which revolves around a person actually reciting long stretches of verse as opposed to singing verses and choruses.

Gerard Langley is that man. He comes from Bristol and has presided as vocalist over the ever-changing line-up of the Blue Aeroplanes for nearly a decade without singing a note. A dark-haired figure of medium build and nondescript features apart from an ever-present pair of beanie-issue shades — Langley sounds as if he should be standing behind a lectern on stage or, at the very least, referring to a script of some sort.

But not only does he memorise the loquacious, stream-of-con-

sciousness outpourings which lend the group's music its peculiarly haunting identity, in performance he even behaves like a rock singer, gripping the microphone stand as he wheels backwards and forwards and dropping melodramatically to the ground at moments of peak intensity.

He is supported in this by the curious figure of Wojtek Dmochowski, a "dancer" who has been an integral part of the group since its inception. Like Langley, he plays an unorthodox, non-musical role, bobbing and weaving around between musicians and monitor speakers, sometimes perilously so,

Christopher Hawtree on a nonagenarian American who has taken 60 years to write his six-volume magnum opus

A writer is free from the dictates of a career plan. Even so, never can there have been as lengthy a gestation as that of *Call It Sleep*. Sixty years ago, the 28-year-old Henry Roth published his first novel, *Call It Sleep*. This was a narrative of two years — 1911-13 — in the life of a boy, David Schearl, a recent immigrant to New York. Acclaimed by the discriminating as a masterpiece and abused by Marxists for not making sufficient revolutionary gestures, it benefited little from such controversy, for the publisher went bankrupt.

War intervened, taste turned from proletarian fiction (too glib a phrase for *Call It Sleep*), and it was three decades before, first, the advocacy of Walter Ridenout had it reissued in America and then praise from Walter Allen prompted its belated publication in England. Paperback sales were large, and continuing.

News indeed to cheer Roth, who had since published only a few sketches and essays. Such was the emotional turbulence of his life in the Thirties, further complicated by the warring demands of art and

It's never too late

MERCY OF A RUDE STREAM
Volume 1: A Star Shines Over Mount Morris Park
By Henry Roth
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99

politics (that "bloody crossroads" in Lionel Trilling's expression) that work on a second novel went off the rails. Perhaps most crucially, it was impossible to see where his writing could go after that debut.

Assimilating rather than aping Joyce, Roth turned the Lower East Side into a distinctive cityscape. The old New York of Edith Wharton briefly overlaps with Roth's Lower East Side on a quiet Fifth Avenue; both are equally remote. Here is that classic pattern of a sensitive child, poorly protected by his beloved

mother from the rampaging father to which his father is driven by an inferiority complex so deep-rooted that he even suspects that the boy might not be his. Amid much else, such as a rowdy aunt with an eye for men, and the anti-Semitic taunts of other children, not to mention the crudities of sexual initiation, there is a strong sense of the tenement itself. The brownstone is as vivid as the Yiddish dialogue.

The plot is simple enough. Here is not only the city but an evolving, complex state of mind. It culminates in phantasmagoria, when the boy, beset on all sides, runs off and, but wilfully, plunges a milk-ladle



Henry Roth: bard of the Lower East Side

up home in Albuquerque. These are the biographical bones to be refracted through *Mercy of a Rude Stream*. 1979 saw an end to the terrible block which had gnawed at his life.

Since then 3,500 pages have accumulated, but their publication

takes another twist. This continuing story of a world similar to, but distinct from, *Call It Sleep* is also a paean to the computer. Beset by arthritic hands and other ailments, Roth — or, rather, an aged version of the hero, Ira Stigman — uses a word processor whose velvety touch makes it easier to transcribe, and comment upon, the previous drafts. This computer becomes a character itself, "Ecclesiastes" no less. Seemingly bizarre, this is neither Mac-user run wild nor that other dread beast, a novel about writing a novel, but a fascinating, genuinely interactive work, taking the reader in and out of Harlem through the Great War and beyond, all the while recalling events personal and historic during the redrafting throughout the 1980s.

Call It Sleep was unique, and so is this. Elaborate as the structure is, it has shaken off Joycean devices. The language is simpler, but the

growing network of relations complex. Both Roth and David Schearl, and yet neither of them, Ira finds "history swirling about him in little spindrifts" as he passes through school (a haunting speech from Henry VIII supplies the title) while his father's reckless life continues. The milk-round is now exchanged for a stint as conductor on a trolley car whose jolts — allegedly — makes him so prone to diarrhoea that he decides to become a waiter instead and then an irascible shopkeeper. Ira, himself a fervent reader, finds a friend in the son of an Irish-Catholic undertaker and has a rapturous eye for the city beyond the family's cold-water flat (whose privations his mother prizes above the comforts of their previous place because it has a better view).

All the while, aware of Roth's own life, as one cannot help but be, there is a sense of something on the horizon. Quite what, lies beyond this volume — but one never feels frustrated, only eager for the whole. Roth's story, in fiction and out of it, is incredible. One only hopes that it prompts new interest in the world from which he sprang.

PAPERBACKS



SENTIMENTAL JOURNALS
By Joan Didion
Faber, £6.99

IN THIS volume of essays, written originally for *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*, Didion explores what makes America tick. From here they read rather like a war correspondent's dispatches — reports from the domestic battlefronts of the 1980s, from Washington, New York and Los Angeles. Along with the political ruminations she provides human glimpses which fix a situation permanently in the mind: the conversation outside a New York courtroom during the infamous "Jeweler" trial; the Reagan totally fazed by the service in an unfamiliar church. A gripping account of a decade, elegant, mordant and witty.

EVASION

By Françoise Sagan
Allison & Busby, £5.99

IN THE summer of 1940, two society belles, a gigolo and a diplomat flee Paris in a chauffeur-driven limousine, heading optimistically for Lisbon and a boat to New York. Narrowly escaping death by bombardment, they are forced instead to take refuge at a remote farmhouse where daily life threatens to be a complete nightmare. Sagan milks this wartime encounter between alien tribes for all its farcical potential, mercilessly exposing the vanity of her ridiculous characters as they cope with matters of life and death.

A MISLAID MAGIC
By Joyce Windsor
Black Swan, £4.99

THIS first novel, from an author who discovered writing in her retirement, is set in Dorset in the 1920s. It has the ingredients of a fairytale — a family of motherless children, their noble father the earl, an unsympathetic stepmother, a prince charming and a happy ending. One heady summer an arts festival is held at the family's hideous stately pile. Strange energies are released, with goings-on in the phallic shadow of the Cerne Abbas Giant, and yokels appearing in ancient fertility gear. Whimsical, but sharply funny in parts.

Contributors: Hazel Leslie, Alison Burns

Images of art beyond the Pale

In 1923 Dr Albert C. Barnes acquired a colossal number of paintings by Chaim Soutine — estimates vary between fifty and a hundred. Those that remain in the good doctor's foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania, punctuate this catalogue raisonné with slabs of monochrome amid the riot of colour. Barnes did not approve of colour photography, and his ban on it has only just been lifted.

The absence of colour serves as a reminder of how crucial a part it plays in Soutine's art. Much of the time the hues are boldly primary, but there are also passages of remarkable subtlety, because for all his obsessive interest in certain subjects, Soutine resists facile pigeon-holing.

These tones, whose text is short and to the point, are organised according to broad categories, as well as chronologically. The extremely substantial first volume is devoted to landscape (89) and still life (120), while the comparatively slim second is given over to portraiture (87). The fact that Soutine's production can be subsumed under these three headings, however loosely, underlines the fact that he was in some ways a profoundly traditional figure.

He was not afraid of the achievements of the past, as so many artists now seem to be, and was as happy to draw strength from recent precursors such as Cézanne and Van Gogh as from earlier painters, at one point hailing El Greco

David Ekserdjian

CHAIM SOUTINE
(1893-1943)
Catalogue Raisonné
By Maurice Tuckman,
Esti Dunow, Klaus Perls
Benedikt Taschen,
two volumes £39.99

as "the great master". Indeed, the latter's haunting visions of Toledo must have helped Soutine create the almost alarmingly fluid landscapes of Ceret and Cagnes, in which one sometimes has the impression that the trees and buildings are about to slip their moorings and slide out of the picture space altogether.

An even more evident source of inspiration was Rembrandt's compelling picture of the carcass of an ox in the Louvre. Soutine wrought complex variations on this theme, and it has rightly been observed that in some of these paintings the hanging meat looks alarmingly human.

What is more, still lives of dead birds come to play a major part in his oeuvre, and these images, many of them of scrawny plucked chickens and turkeys, are among his most haunting works. Commentators on Lucian Freud's nude portraits are wont to dwell on the vulnerability of his sitters, plucked down like so many specimens by the unrelenting scrutiny of his gaze, but Freud's people seem robustly confident by comparison with



Windy Day, Auxerre, oil on canvas, c. 1939, one of Soutine's vivid and fluid landscapes, from the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.

these hopelessly vulnerable remains of living things.

The difference may well be a consequence of the fact that, for all his pessimism, Freud gives the impression that he personally is supremely confident, whereas Soutine was the opposite. He was a keen destroyer of his own works, and the hunted look in the eyes of his sitters is perhaps more a reflection of his own angst than of theirs.

These chefs and bellboys were almost without exception chance acquaintances, as if

Soutine could not bear to get too close. It is perhaps revealing that he only ever painted one nude female. In a fascinating footnote, it is revealed here that the picture was signed and dated by Monroe Wheeler, the organiser of the first Soutine retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, with the artist's acquiescence.

It is tempting to wonder whether his self-imposed ban on painting the female nude is to be interpreted in the light of Soutine's Jewishness. Like

Chagall, but with startlingly different consequences, he was born in a shtetl in Lithuania. The harshness of life in the Pale of settlement marked him, not least since the making of images was looked upon as a crime. Similarly, his early years in Paris were harshly impoverished, and Barnes's bounty came too late to save his digestion. In the end his stomach ulcers killed him.

There have been comparatively few Jewish painters, as opposed to musicians and writers, and it is hardly sur-

prising if Soutine's work has come to be interpreted in terms of his upbringing. Prohibitively enough, the pain which is such an all-pervading force in his art is often seen as a prophetic foreshadowing of the subsequent nightmare of the Holocaust. What is important, however, is that Soutine's universal appeal should not be diminished by such associations. In the age of political correctness, it is vital to recognise that first and foremost he was a painter who was a Jew, and only then a Jew who was a painter.

The cost of art books these days often seems prohibitive, but I have no doubt that a publisher would have no difficulty explaining why they are so bankrupting. It remains the case that these two handsome volumes — with their 780 pages, 478 colour and 133 black and white illustrations — are a snap at just under £40. I have no idea how Benedikt Taschen Verlag can afford to do it, but I wish a few other people would find out.

GYNT WITHOUT PEER

LONDON
Barbican Theatre
Peer Gynt
Mar 5

IBSEN'S masterpiece, *Peer Gynt* is brought to the stage in English, by Vadim Niznigawa. Tickets £18.50 (normally £21.50). Tel 071-638 8891

Sadler's Wells
English Touring Opera
Feb 24

FULL of joy, *L'Elisir d'Amore* is Donizetti's best-known comic masterpiece. Attend a reception after the performance with the cast for £22.50, the usual ticket price. Tel 071-278 8916

Queen's Theatre
She Stoops to Conquer
Feb 21-Mar 5

SIR Peter Hall's production stars Miriam Margolyes and Donald Sinden. Tickets half-price (normally £22). Tel 071-494 5040

Hackney Empire
Picasso
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DUNDEE
Rep Theatre
The Grapes of Wrath
Feb 25-Mar 19

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DARLINGTON
Civic Theatre
The Three Lives of Lucy Calver
Feb 17-19

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HARROGATE
Harrrogate Theatre
Antigone
Feb 15

TWO stalls or circle seats for the price of one (normally £2.50, £11, as well as a free programme and the chance to attend a pre-show lecture. Tel 0425 502116

THE TIMES

THEATRE CLUB

YORK
Grand Opera House
A Handful of Dust
Feb 21-24

TWO £10 tickets for the price of one for the staging of Waugh's novel. Tel 0904 671818

MANCHESTER
Contact Theatre
Strange Attraction
Feb 15-18

TICKETS reduced from £7 to £5.50 for club members. Tel 061-274 4400

LIVERPOOL
Playhouse
Fur Coat And No Knickers
Feb 26-March 3

TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £14.50 and £15.50). Tel 081-707-0088

BIRMINGHAM
Rep Theatre
An Athlete's Tragedy
Feb 14-19

TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £14.50 and £15.50). Tel 021-266 4953

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New Victoria Theatre
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Skeletons in the cellar

Simon Sebag Montefiore

BERIA
Stalin's First Lieutenant
By Amy Knight
Princeton, £19.95

boast to this day, this was a time when the Soviet empire was ruled by two Georgians. One of the sights in today's Georgia is the marble Grecian temple built by Beria around Stalin's birthplace in Gori.

He survived as Stalin's second-in-command for 15 years, becoming NKVD boss in 1938 and remained responsible for the vast security empire until a few months after Stalin's death. His survival is remarkable considering that his predecessors in the job, Yagoda and Yezhov, each lasted two years before being shot.

As Stalin's closest associate, it was Beria who organised the "deportation" of millions of families whose only crime was to have been members of ethnic groups, like the Tatars, whom Stalin regarded as untrustworthy. Beria was also in charge of the Soviet nuclear bomb project. Typically, he mastered the science and the scientists, whom he terrorised into accelerating the project as much as possible.

Yet, even today, one finds fans of Beria. Russians will tell you that he was actually a Georgian nationalist who hated Bolshevism. One can meet old ladies in Tbilisi who were reduced by Beria but will tell you that women loved this old-fashioned gentleman. Even today, it is said he lived better and appreciated beautiful art with finer taste than the other



Beria: Stalin's Himmeler

leaders. He loved power, was not afraid of luxury and never worshipped Stalin as the others did: as soon as he was out of Stalin's earshot, he shocked his colleagues with his insults about the dictator.

It has always been known that, after Stalin's death, Beria's attempt to liberalise Soviet rule in East Germany provoked a rebellion in East Berlin, providing the excuse for his fall. Beria was also to relax Soviet rule over Eastern Europe in a way that Gorbachev would have understood. But his colleagues believed it would bring the whole empire down. They were probably right, as Gorbachev and another ruthless Georgian, Shevardnadze, later learned.

Thus Beria is ripe for revisionism. The danger is that too much can be made of Beria's relative liberalism: the fact that he wanted to liberalise the economy and present East Germany as a more kindly example of Soviet benevolence does not make him a liberal in the Western sense. One remembers how the KGB boss Yuri Andropov (the only secret police chief to actually become

Soviet leader) was presented to the gullible West as a jazz-loving liberal.

Amy Knight does not fall into this trap. Hers is a strictly political biography and a very good one; but the man remains an enigma. Given that there are still many people alive who knew him, Knight's lack of personal detail is a shame. The book's best moments are after the war when Stalin begins to tire of Beria: the security empire is split up, Stalin was probably planning to rid himself of Beria and the rest of the old guard with the anti-Semitic "Doctors' Plot", when he was struck down with a fatal stroke. Knight suggests Beria may have let Stalin die; but in any case the Doctors' Plot had left Stalin without any trusted Kremlin doctors.

After Stalin's death, Beria seized control of the security empire and placed the fat, colourless Malenkov in the top job. It must have looked as if Beria might well grab Stalin's throne for himself: in fact, he was too scary and powerful for his colleagues to tolerate.

Beria's death was appropriately macabre: the rumours are so lurid that Knight does not quite clear up the mystery. So fearsome was Beria that when Khrushchev arranged his downfall, only the marshals of the Soviet Union dared to arrest him. It is possible that no trial whatsoever took place. No one but they dared kill him, so he may have been strangled in the Kremlin. Once he was dead, everyone breathed a sigh of relief at this rare example of Soviet justice.

Simon Sebag Montefiore is the author of *King's Parade*, a novel. He has travelled widely in the former Soviet Union.



Blatch on the runway

Air traffic controllers are used to being obeyed. Lady Blatch used to be one and it explains a lot about how she operates as Minister of State for Education. Profile by Biddy Passmore

OUT FEBRUARY 18

TES

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Glaxo set to give interim profits a healthy look

ANALYSTS are hoping that Sir Paul Giamatti, chairman of Glaxo Holdings, will provide the pharmaceutical group with a boost when interim figures are revealed on Thursday.

Andrew Porter, analyst at UBS, has pencilled in a 14 per cent advance in first-half pre-tax profits to £930 million, compared with £819 million. Market forecasts range from £900 million to £980 million.

Operating profits are expected to increase by 17 per cent, boosted by a healthy currency gain, though investment income is likely to diminish.

Mr Porter is looking for a 12 per cent rise in earnings to 21.7p a share, while a 23 per cent increase is predicted in the dividend to 8.6p (7p).

Some analysts forecast an interim dividend as high as 10p in an anticipated bid by Glaxo to reduce the disparity between the full and half-year payouts.

Analysts will focus on news relating to sales prospects for Zantac, the group's important ulcer drug. Interim sales of Zantac are expected to climb to £1.15-£1.25 billion (£1.03 billion), representing about 45 per cent of group turnover, though underlying growth will have slowed. The future is

uncertain, with AB Astra's Losoc drug gaining ground and US price pressure set to mount when SmithKline Beecham's Tagamet comes off-patent in May. Among Glaxo's other products, sales of the Zofran anti-nausea drug are likely to reach £200-230 million (£163 million).

TODAY

Interim: Glaxo Gains Investment Trust, English & Caledonian Inv, Foster's Brewing Group, Mid Wynd Int'l Investment Trust, Rospur, Second Alliance Trust, Starcelo, Thompson 1000, Westminster Health Care, Finales: Baring Tiltone Investment Trust, Flying Flowers, Olin Convertible Trust, Second Market Inv Co.

Economic statistics: Producer price index numbers (January).

TOMORROW

British Airways is expected to produce evidence of another surge for the third quarter, confirming BA as the most profitable of the few international airlines that remain in the black. BA is expected to report sharply higher profits of about £300 million for the first nine months of its financial year, up from £247 million. NatWest Securities forecasts third-quarter pre-tax profits of £58 million (£21 million) thanks to a combination of 11.6 per cent third-

quarter traffic growth and, more important, 11 per cent premium traffic growth in the third quarter.

Hanson, Lord Hanson's bricks, coal mining and tobacco conglomerate, will have a relatively sorry tale to tell as higher interest charges and the costs of the strike at the company's Peabody coal mine in America take their toll.

The recession on both sides of the Atlantic is expected to push Hanson's first-quarter pre-tax profits down to £100 million (£216 million), according to NatWest Securities. Market forecasts range from £96 million to £130 million. An unchanged interim dividend of 2.5p is predicted.

Interim: Armitage Brothers, Harrison (C1), Howard Holdings, Finales: British Airways (Q3), Burlington Group, Marney Docks and Harbour Co, St Modwen Properties, The Pacific Inv Trust, Union Diesel Co.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Benson Group, Finales: County Smaller Cos, Leslie Wess Group, Trencherwood, Trust of Property Shares, Vardon, Yeoman Inv Trust. Economic statistics: Retail prices index (January), public sector borrowing requirement (January), retail sales (January), house market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (January - provisional), average earnings index (December - provisional), employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs: industrial disputes, farm rents in Wales: results of 1993 annual rent enquiry.

THURSDAY

Alfred McAlpine, the house-builder, is forecast to reveal a full-year profit advance to about £5 million (£3.6 million), confirming a gradual strengthening of the market last year.

Sparkling equity market conditions in the closing half of last year will allow a significant profit recovery at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, though earnings progress in the current year could be more sedate. Analysts' final pre-tax profit forecasts range from £80 million to £92 million, with most centered around £90 million, compared with £46.3 million.

Interim: Alunne Group, Glasgow Income Trust (Q3), Glaxo Holdings, Int'l Communication & Data, Partheon Int'l, River & Mercantile Geared (Q3), Finales: Anglo & Overseas Trust, Barts Leam (Q3), Kleinwort Benson Group, River & Mercantile Trust, Vektia Corporation, Wickes.

Economic statistics: Machine tools (December), financial statistics (February), provisional figures for vehicle production (January).

FRIDAY

Economic statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (January), provisional estimates of M4 and counterparts (January), major British banking groups' monthly statement (end-January).

PHILIP PANGALOS



Peter Middleton, left, and David Rowland can say they have done their best

Institutions return to cash holdings

By Philip Pangalos

THE latest monthly survey of fund managers conducted by Gallup for Smith New Court shows that institutions intend to increase their holdings of cash for the first time since the survey began in mid-1990.

The February survey, which involved 91 institutions handling funds totalling £781 billion, also showed that interest in UK property remains extremely strong. The balance of fund managers planning to raise UK property holdings rose to 33 per cent, matching last October's record figure.

As far as allocation policy is concerned, the survey found that fund managers' interest has shifted further away from continental Europe and other equities and towards Japanese shares. Some 50 per cent of fund managers intend to increase their holdings of Japanese equities, against 39 per

cent in January and a mere 8 per cent in December.

There has been little change towards the UK and US since last month's survey, with 12 per cent of respondents intending to raise holdings of US shares, while 4 per cent of managers plan to raise holdings of UK shares. A majority of institutions prefer FT-SE Mid 250 to FT-SE 100 shares at present. Institutions are most bullish about the outlook for UK and Japanese shares in the next 12 months, and least bullish about that for the US and the Continent.

Institutions continue to be confident about the outlook for the UK economy. Base rates are expected to be down to 5 per cent within three months, but inflation is expected to rise slowly and is forecast to reach 3.2 per cent during 1994 and 3.9 per cent in 1995.

Mercedes rejected Rover

MERCEDES-BENZ, the German luxury car maker, said it had had no interest in buying Rover Group, which was bought by BMW, its rival, two weeks ago.

"It would not have suited us. We looked carefully at the idea but concluded that we would do better by growing internally and developing new models and market segments," Helmut Werner, the management board chairman, said.

"BMW is a very different

company to Mercedes. They made the right decision but for us it would have been wrong. The growth potential of Mercedes has not been fully utilised. We would rather work on this," Herr Werner said.

On January 31, British Aerospace agreed to sell its 100 per cent ownership of Rover Group Holding to BMW for £800 million. The holding company owns 80 per cent of the Rover Group and Honda the other 20 per cent.

Lloyd's offer set to flop

By Sarah Bagwall
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LOYD'S of London is expected to announce this week that its £900 million settlement offer has flopped, leaving names clear to seek compensation through the courts.

More than 22,000 names have been offered a total of £900 million in compensation for losses of £5.5 billion incurred up to the 1990 year of account. In return, if the offer were successful, names had to give up their rights to seek legal redress for their losses.

While the offer formally does not close until 3pm today, few believe that Lloyd's will win enough acceptances for the offer to go unconditional. David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, and Peter Middleton, chief executive, have said that they need acceptances for more than 70 per cent of the offer, in terms of value.

Acceptances are still coming in, but at the end of last week they were rumoured to be only about 35 per cent. Add 10 per cent for the late rush, and the total is still well below what is needed. The failure of the offer will have little impact on the insurance market and will enable Messrs Rowland and Middleton to say "we have done our best" and then leave names to do their best in court.

However, the level of acceptance could be high enough for Lloyd's to decide to leave the offer open in the hope that other names will sign up.

City diary, page 42

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Battle over Disney theme park for US

FIVE American environmental groups claim Walt Disney's plans for a theme park and new town in Virginia would create "sprawl" and cost the region millions of dollars in government grants. Michael Replegle, a transport specialist with the Environmental Defence Fund, said the park would bring in so much traffic that air-quality standards which government road-building grants are based would be lost.

Disney proposes to build a theme park, hotel, golf course, offices, shops and 2,500 homes on 3,000 acres at the hamlet of Haymarket, 35 miles from Washington DC. Environmental organisations want the project moved nearer Washington. "Taxpayers should not be asked to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to subsidise a new wave of sprawl which will degrade air quality and add to growing regional transportation gridlock," Mr Replegle said. A Disney spokeswoman said the environmentalist objections were unsubstantiated. "They're saying, 'Move the site because you're going to mess up our air'. That has not been determined."

Domnick Hunter float

DOMNICK Hunter, the filter manufacturer based in the North-East, is seeking a stock market flotation this spring that would capitalise the group at about £60 million. Hunter, which was the subject of a management buyout from Walter Alexander in 1990 and employs about 550 people, makes high-efficiency filter systems used to purify water and dry air, gas and liquids for the production of mineral waters, wines and spirits, drugs and cosmetics. The 1993 results are expected to show turnover of about £30 million on operating profit exceeding £4.7 million. NatWest Wood Mackenzie will be broker to the issue.

Studio fight at deadline

THE five-month \$10 billion takeover battle for Paramount Communications could start again from the beginning today if neither contender for the Hollywood studio gains control by midnight. Rules on bidding expire tonight if there is no clear winner, effectively freeing QVC Network and Viacom, the two cable-television companies making rival bids for Paramount, to launch new offers. In a statement issued at the weekend, Paramount said that the Securities and Exchange Commission had asked it to clarify the rules to avoid market confusion. Paramount has recommended Viacom's bid. QVC has hinted that it might raise its offer later.

Lloyds' offshoot ahead

THE National Bank of New Zealand, a unit of Lloyds Bank, announced an after-tax profit of NZ\$151 million (£58 million) for 1993, up 48 per cent from NZ\$102 million. The profit reflected a strong performance across all areas of the bank's operations despite narrower than usual lending margins and included a full-year contribution from the Rural Bank and profit from the bank's Australian subsidiary Lloyds Bank NZA. Sir Spencer Russell, chairman, said. Pre-tax profit rose to NZ\$215 million against NZ\$153 million. Total group assets were NZ\$14,212 billion (NZ\$10,948 billion).

City diary, page 42

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.4667 (-0.0257)
German mark
2.5888 (-0.0216)
Exchange Index
81.0 (-0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2594.8 (-74.0)
FT-SE 100
3378.9 (-96.5)
New York Dow Jones
3894.78 (+23.36)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
Closed

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.18	1.98
Austria Sch	18.88	17.48
Belgium Fr	55.98	51.59
Canada \$	2.072	1.912
Cyprus Cyp£	0.788	0.748
Denmark Kr	10.61	9.81
Finland Mk	5.99	5.81
France Fr	6.55	6.45
Germany Dm	2.71	2.50
Greece Dr	380.50	365.50
Hong Kong \$	12.00	11.00
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Italy Lit	2570.00	2415.00
Japan Yen	173.50	155.50
Malta	0.617	0.552
Netherlands Gld	3.018	2.798
Norway Kr	11.67	10.67
Portugal Esc	268.00	250.00
S Africa Rd	5.75	4.85
Spain Ptas	215.00	201.00
Sweden Kr	12.40	11.60
Switzerland Sfr	2.25	2.12
Turkey Lira	2763.00	2569.00
USA \$	1.952	1.432

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Will George Adams make any Britons very, very rich?

Jon Ashworth reports from Melbourne on a contender to run the UK National Lottery with 104 years' experience in the numbers game

Money, in Melbourne, comes in the form of a whisky former gold prospector called George Adams. His bearded face adorns newsgroups and corner shops in a dozen suburbs. For all who see it, the sight triggers the same impulse: George Adams could make me very, very rich.

A year from now, the very same face could be scowling down from shops and supermarkets across the length and breadth of Britain. It may even bear the trace of a smile, or, indeed, be roaring with laughter. For its presence will mean the coup of a lifetime for Tattersall's, the Melbourne lottery operator that is audaciously bidding to run the giant UK National Lottery.

In the 90 years since George Adams' death, the lottery business he founded has grown by leaps and bounds. About five million people across Australia have a go at Tattersall's Saturday night draw, lured by prizes of A\$13 million (£6.4 million) or more, and raising vast sums for state coffers. Lottery ticket sales in Victoria hit \$1 billion last year, raising \$281 million in government revenue. Millions are donated to charity.

Multiply this by six and one can begin to picture the scale of the UK National Lottery. Tattersall's new national game, OZ Lotto, is being sold through 4,000 retail outlets. The UK is expected to have 15,000 to 30,000 outlets, ticket sales could rise to £3 billion to £4 billion a year, and the bonanza for the shopkeepers who sell the tickets is likely to be astonishing.

Tattersall's shops sell about \$1 million in tickets a year each, and make an average profit of \$1,658 every week. This works out at \$32,350 for each shopkeeper a year — on top of regular activities such as selling chocolates and newspapers. Tattersall's most successful retail outlet, in a shopping centre in suburban Melbourne, sells nothing but lottery tickets and makes a profit — astonishing by any measure — of \$400,000 a year.

While the precise cut for the UK retailer has yet to be worked out, it is clear that there are good profits to be made. For Tattersall's, which has teamed up with N.M. Rothschild to make its bid, the issue goes far beyond mere cash. Whoever wins the National Lottery licence — the final list of bidders is to be published today — will be the world's number one. The point has not been lost on the eight consortia jockeying for position as the race enters the last leg.

Each consortium has its special message: Richard Branson promising to give more to good causes, Camelot Group offering a speedy start-up and reliable service. Tattersall's message is a simple one: that it generates more profits per head than any other lottery operator in the world.

The nerve centre from which such statistics flow is a modern building on Dandenong Road, south of Melbourne city centre. Inside, George Adams' face glowers from every corner — the black marble walls, the hallways, even the computer screens in the data centre, where ticket sales are monitored. Sales can easily hit \$1.4 million in an average morning.

Two such data centres are likely to be built in the UK, and their capability is



Tattersall's most successful retail outlet sells nothing but lottery tickets and makes a profit of \$400,000 a year

remarkable. Take Groote Eylandt, off Australia's northern coast, one of Tattersall's most remote outlets. Some one fills in a lottery card picking six numbers, and hands the card to an attendant to insert into a lottery terminal. The ticket is read, a signal is sent by microwave to Melbourne, 3,000 miles away, the computer registers the numbers, a signal is flashed back and the ticket is printed. The entire process takes less than a second.

Here, the ironies begin. For the equipment that makes all this possible — lottery terminals and computers alike — is supplied by GTEch, the American lottery company that is competing against Tattersall's in the UK as part of the Camelot bid. Their relationship is ambivalent, to say the least. Peter Gillooly, Tattersall's general manager, insists that relations with GTEch are "very good", saying Tattersall's aim is to "rise above" any mudslinging. But in the next breath — why, a clump of mud. "Anyone who believes selling confectionery is the same as running lotteries has another think coming," says Mr Gillooly, in a clear jibe at GTEch's partner, Cadbury Schweppes.

GTEch, he says, is a systems supplier with limited experience of running lotteries, unlike Tattersall's, which has been doing it for 104 years. "They're trying to make themselves analogous to what we do," he says. In a final dig, GTEch is accused of capitalising on Tattersall's innovations — like Quick Pick, in which the computer chooses numbers for players at random.

On the other hand, GTEch is known to be angered by suggestions that it is touting its services in the market. It has always maintained it is 100 per cent committed to the Camelot bid.

No one can doubt Tattersall's track record in running lotteries, a task it has performed for decades without a breath of scandal. Victoria's Minister for Gaming, Haddon Storey QC, speaks of Tattersall's in glowing terms. "Over the years, there has not even been the faintest hint of anything untoward," he says. "Very few organisations in the world have such an impeccable record."

The company is well aware that the public must have total confidence in the operator if they are to buy tickets. Tattersall's has turned down contracts in Asia and the former Soviet Union for fear of the possible damage to its reputation. One South East Asian government wanted the top tickets to be placed in a suitcase marked "Big prizes". Tattersall's politely declined to get involved.

If there is a chink in the armour, it lies in Tattersall's curious corporate structure. George Adams formed a trust to distribute the proceeds from lottery sales to a host of anonymous beneficiaries. The secretive nature of the structure has been a source of criticism over the years. As

Adrian Nelson, marketing manager, puts it: "The original beneficiaries included some politicians. The idea is that George looked after his mates."

The notion of Tattersall's as a "secret society" begins to disintegrate on closer examination. The names of the beneficiaries — now numbering thousands — will be fully disclosed to government regulators on request. Tattersall's is subjected to no fewer than three external audits. As Mr Gillooly says: "It's overboard, but we welcome it. At the end of the day, everybody knows that there's nothing untoward with what we do."

Rival bidders for the UK licence can

be as rude about each other as they like. No matter what is said and written, the decision to award the National Lottery licence will ultimately be decided in plain, analytical terms: who is best for the job. Peter Davis, Director General of the National Lottery, is well aware of the need to avoid scandal, and is going to extraordinary lengths to investigate anything suspicious. Agencies, including Interpol and British Intelligence, have been asked to assist. Investigators will be sent to America, Australia, or anywhere else it is deemed necessary. The National Lottery must be whiter than white.

Mr Davis is taking equally great pains to protect his integrity. Every single telephone call he takes is logged. He declines an invitation to visit Tattersall's in Australia. "I have not accepted so much as a cup of tea from the applicants," he says.

The Government's overriding requirement is for a "clean" lottery that will raise the maximum for good causes. Mr Davis has a heavyweight team of advisers to assist him in his task: Hill Samuel, chosen for its work in the television franchise round, and National Economic Research Associates, a consultancy specialising in privatisations.

Other advisers include PA Consulting, Mercer Consulting, the Treasury Solicitors department, and Lawrence Graham, a firm of solicitors.

The nationality of the bidders is not an issue. Mr Davis says: "Anyone can bid, Belgian or Bolivian. There is no prejudice against overseas expertise involved: it is all part of an overriding need to be fit and proper." The vetting process is likely to take until June.

British shopkeepers and punters, meanwhile, have much to look forward to. Australians buy their lottery tickets with great enthusiasm, in newsgroups, tobacconists, chemists, and even hairdressers. Losing tickets are sometimes put in a barrel for a second draw, with a television or a fan as a consolation prize. In Britain, the lottery wheel is spinning. And there are no prizes for second place.

Award scheme's growth mirrors revived interest in smaller companies

IN THE depths of recession, when the stock market stagnated and investors deserted all but the safest companies, pressure grew on the Stock Exchange to do something — anything — to revive interest in smaller quoted firms.

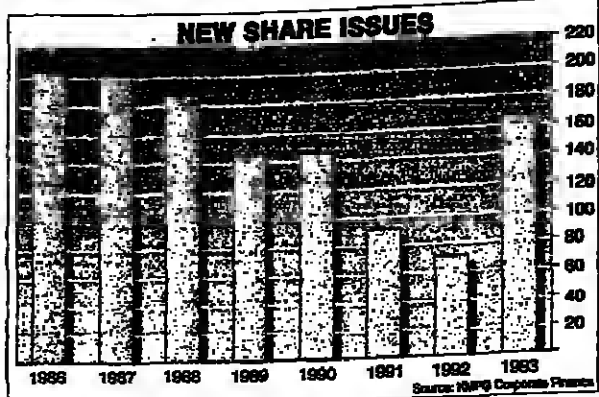
Amid cries that the Stock Exchange simply didn't care about smaller companies, new issues dried up, fundraising became impossible, and liquidity in the shares evaporated. The Exchange stood its ground. The problem was, one official said, "nothing that a good bull market wouldn't put right".

He was right. A strong stock market has drawn a flood of new issues — 165 last year alone, the most since 1988 — and rights issues, while the value of shares in smaller companies has made good the gap that had opened between them and big companies. The complaint that the City can't be bothered with smaller companies is rarely heard. The City Group for Smaller Companies, the lobby group known as CISCO, has not dropped the cause, but these days it is as concerned about corporate governance and how small companies can implement the Cadbury recommendations.

The atmosphere is, therefore, likely to be more convivial at this year's Coopers & Lybrand PLC Awards, when businessmen and City professionals meet at one of the City's most prestigious events. When money is being made, past grievances are more easily forgotten.

The awards, in their eighth year and run in association with *The Times*, are further evidence that interest in smaller companies has never been stronger. More than 1,100 people will attend the awards ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on March 10, when Michael Grade, head of Channel 4, will speak. Again, demand for tickets has exceeded supply.

It is a far cry from the inaugural event when just 200 gathered in the City for the USM Awards, a kind of club for entrepreneurs who prospered taking their companies public as the 1980s bull market gathered pace. When the boom came a cropper and the USM lost its gloss, the event became the



PLC Awards, and Coopers & Lybrand succeeded the defunct USM Magazine as main sponsor.

The event is now open to companies with market capitalisation up to £100 million, tracking Hoare Govett's smaller company index, which embraces almost 80 per cent of quoted companies. That exclusive club for entrepreneurs now ex-

cludes only the largest companies. Organisers not only pre-empted the Unlisted Securities Market's demise, but probably hastened it.

Graham Cole, a corporate finance partner in Coopers and the partner responsible for the awards, was a CISCO founder two-and-a-half years ago. "At the time, the Stock Exchange was not attractive



Cole: quality-watcher

to smaller companies, nor was the Stock Exchange attracted to smaller companies," he says. "What we feared was a return to the bad old days of the over-the-counter market."

The desire to improve the perceived quality of smaller companies explains CISCO's concern over the Cadbury Report. The principles of corporate governance apply to all companies, regardless of size, Mr Cole says.

He is gratified by the quality of the smaller companies in the latest generation of new issues, particularly when compared with issues that scraped through at the height of the bull market in the late 1980s, and says that "the PLC Awards will have a fertile population to choose from in the future".

Issue sponsors are top-class, says Mr Cole, who expects demand for new issues to remain strong in 1994.

Candidates for Company of the Year, sponsored by College Hill Associates, are CIA Group, EIS Group and Rotorik. Candidates for New Company of the Year, sponsored by Albert E Sharp, are Carpentright, Roxboro Group, and Telspect. Entrepreneur of the Year, sponsored by Credit Lyonnais, will be chosen from James Frost, of Frost Group, Max Pearson, of Haynes Publishing, Digby Morrow, of Sidlaw, and Geoffrey Hollyhead, of Trinity Holdings.

The *Times* will carry voting coupons this week. Other awards are: Best Annual Report, sponsored by Burrup/St Ives; Best Performing Share, sponsored by Winterflood Securities; and Smaller Company Fund Manager, sponsored by Peel Hunt.

MARTIN BARROW

Growth shortfall likely to squeeze real yields

Gilt investors were not convinced last week that an interest rate cut was justified. The scepticism contrasts with their confidence, only two months ago, that the tight Budget would pave the way to lower borrowing costs. Then, it seemed that rate cuts would be the only means of offsetting the restrictive impact of the Chancellor's tax measures on economic demand. It is an indication of how far inflation concerns have risen in recent weeks that the Bank of England's MLR announcement was received with such apprehension.

This was after the Chancellor had cited improved inflation prospects as one of the factors justifying lower interest rates. The Bank of England was able to report in its latest study of inflation that there had been a fall in the underlying rate monitored by the Government since its previous study last autumn. Mr Clarke may well have expected a more enthusiastic market response to his rates decision than he received.

While private forecasters have indeed trimmed their projections of inflation, the financial markets are not following them. A visceral sense of unease at the risks of rising wage and raw material costs has been creeping in. In part, this reflects alarm at the US Federal Reserve's move to tighten credit. If the Fed worries about inflation, the market reasons, should not the rest of us?

To the argument that the Fed's concerns relate to conditions in the US economy, which is further advanced in the economic cycle than the UK and probably closer to production bottlenecks, the answer is that it is only a matter of time before the UK catches up. There is no evidence that the psychology of pay bargaining has changed in the UK, only that a weak economy holds wages in check. Gilt investors are beginning to anticipate the next inflation upswing.

These fears were magnified by the timing of the rate cut, at a moment that was politically

difficult for the Government. There is no reason to suspect Mr George, who claims responsibility for judging exactly when to change rates, of bowing before political imperatives. Indeed, the coincidence of the rate cut with a political embarrassment has tended to undermine the Bank's anti-inflation credibility. It makes more sense to take the Bank's explanations at face value. February 8 was the date chosen for a rate cut because that was the day the Bank's inflation report was to be

GILT-EDGED

published. If the timing was unfortunate, rather than sinister, there will be room for gilts to recover their poise in the weeks ahead.

Gilt yield spreads over US treasuries and German bunds have widened in the past three weeks. While the move relative to Germany may be explicable in terms of the UK's strengthening economic demand, no such argument applies in relation to the US. The UK economic recovery, moreover, is looking rather fragile. Consumer optimism around

Christmas already appears to have petered out. Surveys indicate that consumers are now focusing on the April tax increases. The chances are that they will be reluctant to run down their savings to support recent spending levels. Companies' investment intentions remain subdued and the benefits of last year's devaluation are fading. It would not be surprising if the gilt market did not begin, before too long, to look for an undershoot of the official estimate of 2.5 per cent GDP growth this year.

Shortfalls in economic growth will probably encourage further declines in UK real yields. These will spur a rally in fixed coupon gilts and will especially benefit the index-linked sector. Sterling is underpinned by the current cheapness of UK industrial assets, as indicated by BMW's eagerness to buy Rover. Foreigners are likely to see the exchange rate risk in buying gilts as small. The gilt shake-out has left the market all the more firmly based.

STEPHEN LEWIS
Director of Research,
The London Bond
Broking Company

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The Old Lady in a new light

EDDIE George, Governor of the Bank of England, was in fine form at the Mansion House dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor, Paul Newall, to mark The Old Lady's tercentenary. To the hoot of all present, the Governor conceded that the Corporation of London was "our best customer", adding "but in view of recent bad publicity about dining with your bank manager, I have decided to waive the usual fee". The Old Lady intends to celebrate her 300th anniversary in style, George said, and since he was dining in the Lord Mayor's grandly refurbished residence, Britain's most expensive council house, might he raise the little matter of lights? Only twice has the Bank been flooded — to mark the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession, and, in 1953, to mark the Coronation. The Old Lady would dearly love to show off her face well before her birthday, July 27, but City planning permission and listed building consent to turn the lights on will be considered only on February 18. To show just how super the Old Lady looks illuminated, someone (doubt-



... And the lucky winner is ...

less, not law-abiding George, had arranged a "test", and the Bank was ablaze as dinner ended. This raises the question: If the Old Lady anticipates the granting of permission for something as serious as floodlighting, will she act with such speed when it comes to the matter of interest rates? And is the Chancellor aware?

Brought to book?

WHEN Katherine Wallace left the PRO department of Consolidated Gold Fields in 1988, City friends quaked. Wallace was quitting the City for Cornwall, to run a bookshop, and

let it be known that she would be writing a "City novel". Virtually every time she said farewell to a ConsGold colleague, her nervous well-wisher would ask "I won't be in your book, will I?" Six years on, Wallace has scrapped the idea. "I looked over the draft and decided it was beginning to read like a City circular," she says. However, Wallace still promises a "corporate novel, centred on a man with a City lifestyle". Keep quaking.

Mint condition

BRIAN Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank, waxed lyrical about New Zealand last

week. It has, he said, a model economy. Its central bank governor has incentives to keep inflation below 2 per cent built into his pay. It is able to produce a lamb for £14, compared with the £40 cost in Europe. This, Pitman said, was a competitive market. "If they can persuade more people to eat lamb, they have the growth," he said. Simple, but effective.

Quietly confident

INSTITUTIONS had better be sharp of hearing this afternoon to catch the City message from stock market-bound Radstone Technology ahead of its share placing. The computer group, a 1988 management buyout from Plessey, may well have a story to tell, but on Friday, Rhys Williams, the chairman, and Charles Patterson, the chief executive, had lost their voices to flu, while Jeff Perrin, finance director, was still talking in whispers. A "voice-over" was being sought at the weekend. If that is not found by noon, stand by for semaphore.

Tie quip

André Bourbeau, Québec's new finance minister, was sporting a rather smart tie bearing Latin while at the

Holland Park residence of the province's delegate-general. The neckwear, Bourbeau said, was presented by Québec's prime minister, Daniel Johnson. Bourbeau intends wearing the said tie when he presents his first budget. And the Latin's translation, bearing in mind that Canada is rich in timber? — Money does not grow on trees.

Overcooked stakes

LLOYD'S of London professionals, never ones to miss a good punt, have been flocking to Beauchamps Tap, a City watering hole, to enter a sweepstake on the outcome of the insurance market's £900 million settlement offer. At £5 a go, punters can choose what percentage take-up, in terms of value, they expect. Bets were placed on half percentage points from 40 per cent to 85 per cent. Bets are reported to be concentrated from the "low 50s to the high 60s". The winner, to be announced tomorrow, scoops £120, while 20 per cent of takings will aid motor neurone research. In true Lloyd's style, it is likely that punters have got the numbers horribly wrong, and the final figure will languish in the 40s.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Which
PR consultancy is
helping Cadbury keep
romance alive?


CHARLES BARKER

Exceeding expectations
Steve Gibben - 071 830 8437

100

- 6.35 **Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors.** Animated adventures (I) (6199008)
- 7.00 **The Big Breakfast.** Early-morning mayhem with Gabby Roslin and a mystery performer (98443)
- 9.00 **Saturday.** Women-only quiz hosted by Maria McElrath (C) (33337)
- 9.30 **Schoolers: Geography.** Start Here! (1768117) 9.40 **Talk, Write and Read** (4119638) 10.02 **Science Start Here!** (4353723) 10.18 **World Studies** (4514240) 10.40 **The English Programme** (9024511) 11.07 **Time for Maths** (7555511) 11.18 **Maths Talk.** (7591191) 11.30 **Sat-CatTalk** (3303530) 11.45 **Junior Technology** (333085)
- 12.00 **Right to Reply.** A repeat of Saturday's programme (Teletext) (S) (48001)
- 12.30 **Seaside Street.** Early learning series for the under-fives (11462)
- 1.30 **Bobobobs.** Environmental adventures in outer space (I) (44337)
- 2.00 **History.** The continuing saga of Three Seconds: World War veterans and their struggle to adapt to civilian life. Robert is close to death from a chemical spill (S) (7527530)
- 2.55 **Passage out of Paradise.** In celebration of Australia's bicentenary in 1988, *Bainbridge* films, based now across the *Timor Sea* (3267917)
- 3.55 **Mr Perfect.** A repeat of last Friday's programme that looked at how a garden can act as a display of power and wealth. (Teletext) (6666172)
- 4.30 **Countdown.** Words and numbers game presented by Richard Whiteley (Teletext) (S) (462)
- 5.00 **The Late, Late Show.** Gay Byrns hosts Dublin's topical chat and music show (S) (2658)
- 6.00 **Don't Forget Your Toothbrush** with Chris Evans. A repeat of Saturday's show (S) (73085)

Palgrave. (Teletext) and weather (930511) 7.50
Comment (Teletext) (127849)
6.00 Brookside: The lives and loves of the neighbours living in a suburban Merseyside cul-de-sac. (Teletext) (3 7725)
8.30 Desmond's: Comedy series set in a barber shop in Peckham. Who is the author of an anonymous letter that is delivered to Desmond? (1) (Teletext) (3 9882)
9.00 CHOICE Cutting Edge: Shops and Robbers (Teletext) (2443)
10.00 Homicide: Life on the Street: Last in the series of gritty American police dramas. Pemberton and Bayless become embroiled in the murky world of sadomasochism while investigating a murder. Meanwhile, Lewis and Crosetti hunt for a killer who is obsessed with fountain pens. (Teletext) (3 6530)



A new future for Londonderry? (11.00pm)

11.00 CHOICE An Astonished Eye (668356)

12.35am Let the Blood Run Free. The last episode in the black comedy series set in an Australian hospital (1 (s) (4302863))

1.05 Town and Country. Singer-songwriter John Prine introduces k.d lang, performing her version of Roy

SATELLITE

June Tonight (1991). A mer-
cenary missing husband's
wife (sex) (43478)
1964) Bizarre tale of an
with an English baker
at 8.00

es (30649) 7.30 World
Football (50733) 10.00
Football Soccer (57664)

455-76 10.30 S

7.00m Flying (8880234) 8.00m Flying Back
(1905578) 8.00m Flying (195484) 8.00
Days of Our Lives (6150172) 10.00 Dr. Ruth
(4007578) 18.20 The Young and the
Restless (1807333) 14.51 Debra Smith
(1231443) 12.15pm Stars and Signs
(5888268) 12.30 Divorce Court (5904565)
1.00 On the House (5438917) 1.30 Renegade
vs (5903268) 2.00 Agency Hour (488207)
3.00 Living (7171645) 3.45 Gadgets
(6876882) 4.00 Definition (7172795) 4.30
Invention (7174207) 5.00 Musques

1411721 12.00 Ice H

[illegible]

(4457578) 6.30 East

MTV

5:00am Wild Side (543134) 8.00 VJ Ingo (565707) 1.00pm Jock (57849) 12.00 His '90s (57004) 1.00pm VJ Smoove (52682) 3.30 The Report (573303) 3.45 Movie (5135330) 4.00 News (513713) 4.15 3 Host 1 (5725346) 5.00 Dick Martin (4582) 6.00 Host 2 (5725346) 6.30 Dick Martin (4582) 7.00 Host 3 (5725346) 7.30 Dick Martin (4582) 8.00 Pate (5511) 8.30 David Byrne (5648) 8.00 Real World 1 (31819) 9.30 Byrne and Byrne (5648) 10.00 Real World 2 (31819) 10.30 Byrne and Byrne (5648) 11.00 Movie (572733) 11.30 Movie (516827) 10.45 3 Host 1 (504882) 11.00 News (5837) 11.30pm VJ Marine (43516) 11.45 VJ's Movies (5710363)

TV 54

5:00am Planet Wars (26849) 7.00 Regional News (57427) 7.30 Asian Licensing (57690) 8.00 Hard Words News (52083) 8.30 Live News (54707) 8.45 English News (429812) 9.00 Hard Words News (52083) 9.30 Live News (54707) 10.00 News (52083) 10.30 Live News (54707) 1.00pm Movie (5010) 1.30 P.M. Jockey: I Love You (595828) 4.30 Movie (5578) 5:00-6:00 Descriptions (4530) 7.00 Joe's Face (4576) 7.30 Joe's Face (4576) 8.00 News (503375) 8.15 Film: Patchwork Child (5769004) 11.15 Pictas (56417) 12.30 Joe's Face (4576) 1.00-1.15 1.30-1.45 Sight and Sound (565715)

TNT

Thane: Love And Marriage
7:00pm The Tender Trap (1955): A rogue pianist denies Broadway (3322556)
8:00pm The Tender Trap (1955): A rogue pianist says a marriage
10:45 The Swain (1959): Grace Kelly meets a Hungarian prince (574548)
11:00pm The Swain (1959): Grace Kelly meets a Hungarian prince (574548)
11:30pm McDonald's and Nelson Adey play starring

un Summer (40376081
12513152) 5 28 3

CNN
Twenty-four hour news programmes
TMT
Country music: from midnight to 4pm
QVC
Home shopping channel

UNSETTLED 41

LLOYD'S OFFER TO
NAMES LOOKS
DOOMED TO FAIL

BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 14 1994

BUSINESS EDITOR ROBERT BALLANTYNE

PLC AWARDS 42

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL
AGAIN ON THE
STOCK MARKET

Marks and Spencer could back non-profit lottery bid



Davis: strict mandate

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

MARKS and Spencer, the high street chain that so far has rejected involvement in the National Lottery on ethical grounds, has promised seriously to consider backing the non-profit bid for the lottery licence led by Richard Branson and Lord Young of Graffham.

Peter Davis, Director-General of the National Lottery, has been told of M&S's change of mind in a letter stating that Tesco and Texaco, the oil group, favour the UK Lottery Foundation, the Branson-Young vehicle. Mr Davis is today braced for a mountain of bid documents from the groups seeking the licence to run the £4 billion-a-year business.

Mr Davis had a meeting on Friday with the

National Council for Voluntary Organisations, the charitable body whose patron is the Queen. Sir Campbell Adamson, the NCVO president, has been named non-executive director of the Branson-Young bid company.

The amount of profit from the lottery to be returned to charity now appears to be the key to a successful bid. Of the guidelines limit returns to operators to a maximum of 15 per cent, though most bidders suggest single figures. Only the Branson bid promises to return all the operator's profit to charity, after costs. This approach, which boosts the charity take, now seems certain to attract more operators like M&S which had previously shunned the idea.

If more outlets are attracted, it makes less viable the commercial argument put by other

bidders that they can provide a larger volume of lottery returns, and hence greater returns to charity, than Branson's "amateur" non-profit bid. Eight contenders have now thrown their hats into the ring, but more bids could surface by the noon deadline. Two or more groups are believed to have discreetly informed Mr Davis's office that they wish to join the race.

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of Camelot, initially the City's favourite among the commercial bidders, will submit 65,000 pages detailing its tender. All bidders must submit 21 copies of their proposals. The groups represent a broad range of leading British companies from Cadbury Schweppes to NM Rothschild with foreign lottery specialists providing important partners. Unlike the commercial

bidders, Mr Branson, head of Virgin Atlantic Airways, and Lord Young, Cable and Wireless chairman, have promised to donate any operating profit from the lottery to charity.

Heads of the bidding groups will be interviewed by Mr Davis in March before the winner is selected in May. The lottery is expected to start operations in early 1995. Mr Davis has a strict mandate to judge the bids by security, probity and ability to maximise funds for charity. But analysts believe political imperatives could still force the Government to exercise override in the operator's selection.

M&S boost, page 1
Beneficial Branson, page 9
Making Britons rich, page 42

Talks for O'Reilly as higher bid is expected

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TONY O'Reilly, chairman of the Irish Independent Newspapers, arrives in London this week for urgent talks with directors of Newspaper Publishing, owner of *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*, in which he acquired a 24.9 per cent stake at £3.50 a share in a dawn raid two weeks ago.

His visit coincides with reports that the rival consortium led by Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) may increase its bid for the group to £3 a share. Concern is growing in the newspaper industry at the circulation of the two *Independent* titles. Audited figures show that *The Independent's* circulation fell by about 10,000 sales in January, to 291,072. Papers are expected to add sales after the Christmas break. In the six months to January, *Independent* sales fell by 13.2 per cent, the biggest drop of any daily paper.

Independent on Sunday sales rose by 4.5 per cent in January, largely because of an "exclusive" story about a sex survey. However, in the six months to January, sales fell by nearly 12 per cent, the Sunday sector's biggest fall.

Mr O'Reilly is concerned that the long fight for Newspaper Publishing threatens its recovery. A spokesman for his company said: "The papers now need urgent surgery. We have nearly 25 per cent and we believe that the squabbling should stop and the rescue operation begin."

Mr O'Reilly is likely to meet representatives of the rival MGN-led consortium. That consortium — backed by Newspaper Publishing's main Southern European investors and by Andreas Whittam Smith, founding editor of *The Independent* — is expected to announce its offer terms this week. It is understood that the bid could be worth £3 a share — up from the £2.50 mooted by it two weeks ago.

There are signs that institutional investors controlling the remaining 77 per cent of Newspaper Publishing are unlikely to support an offer worth less than the £350 a share paid in the dawn raid. Talk of Mr O'Reilly bringing in Lord Hollick's MAI as an investor appears to have ceased. MAI is now seen to be too busy with other ventures.

Concern at spartan EBRD

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), whose first president, Jacques Attali, resigned amid bad publicity about overspending and costs, has changed policy to a regime so spartan that some fear that the bank's main purpose of funding for Eastern Europe is suffering.

The EBRD faces a slowdown this year in the rate at which it disperses funds to its target countries of the former Soviet empire, reflecting the highly cautious approach of Jacques de Larosière, its new president.

With his first half year in office fast approaching, M de Larosière, brought in to replace M Attali, has imposed a spartan regime at the EBRD's Broadgate headquarters and, to the concern of some bank officials and directors, enforced so low a profile for the institution that it has almost disappeared from the public eye.

The flamboyant M Attali, who was forced to resign last year after criticism of heavy spending of taxpayers' money on the EBRD headquarters and staff, was also under fire for the low level of disbursement that the bank achieved under his stewardship. The stark contrast between disbursement and high spending on the bank's offices sparked press and political blitz on the institution's management and on M Attali, in particular.

Questions raised when the bank was established, about the need for a new international lending institution in addition to the World Bank and its International Finance Corporation subsidiary, were raised again with fresh vigour. However, the governments behind the EBRD pledge to maintain their support for it, even though America withheld a \$70 million contribution to the bank's budget last year.

M de Larosière, a former managing director of the International Monetary Fund, was seen as the safest possible pair of hands for restoring the bank's tarnished image and reorganising its much-criticised management structure. Concern has, however, surfaced at the bank and in some member countries that the current president may be overdoing

the caution, possibly lending support to those governments that were always sceptical about the need for the EBRD.

Financial data due for publication shortly shows that EBRD disbursements rose to \$56 million (€427 million) by the end of last year from \$36 million a year earlier. Approved projects stood at 3,8 billion euros at the end of 1993. The bank's subscribed capital is 10 billion euros.

However, the pick-up in disbursements last year reflects the efforts of M Attali to speed up disbursements and to be seen to be actively lending money or taking equity stakes in emerging economies of the Soviet empire. M de Larosière's dramatic cut into the bank's budget, the continuing implementation of his sweeping management reorganisation, a decentralisation strategy and other systemic changes have inevitably caused some disaffection among EBRD officials. Even food portions in the staff canteen have been reduced.

The EBRD annual meeting, in St Petersburg, Russia, in April, is unlikely to attract the attention that last year's meeting in London, drew at the height of the protests about M Attali's leadership. The issues of the continued bias of disbursement to the better-off economies of central Europe and wariness about deals with public-sector partners, are certain to come up.



The Bank of England, floodlit for one evening only, which happened to coincide with the Lord Mayor's banquet to honour its tercentenary

Just testing — honestly

THE Bank of England was lit up for its 300th anniversary last week, but for only one night. Eddie George, the Governor, told guests at a Mansion House dinner in honour of the tercentenary, that the Corporation of London had not yet given permission for the floodlights to be used. But Mr George said they would be lit that evening for a test, just happening to coincide with the Lord Mayor's celebration. City diary, page 42

Glaxo plays down reports of alliance

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

GLAXO Holdings, the pharmaceutical giant due to present its interim results on Thursday, dismissed as "pure speculation" reports that it is planning to put together a strategic alliance with one of its main rivals.

There has been talk of possible alliances among pharmaceutical groups in the wake of the widespread changes in the industry, espe-

cially in America where it awaits the Clinton administration's healthcare reforms.

Glaxo ranks number two in America, only behind Merck, the world's largest drug company, so most agree that an alliance of some sort would make commercial sense.

Glaxo signed a joint venture agreement with Warner-Lambert late last year to develop over-the-counter versions of

prescription drugs, though names of those mentioned as having been involved in more recent strategic talks include the American giants Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer.

Neither company was willing to comment on the reports. Similarly, a spokesman for Glaxo would not comment on the reports, saying only: "It's pure speculation."

Analysts are hoping that Sir

Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo Holdings, will shed some light on the rumours when the interim figures are announced.

Market pre-tax profit forecasts anticipate a solid advance to between £900 million and £980 million for the first half, compared with £819 million last time.

Week Ahead, page 41

Markets expect jump in inflation to 2.6%

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FINANCIAL markets, nervous after last week's cut in base rates, are braced for a week which sees the first evidence of how the economy has held up in the new year and, perhaps most crucial, January's inflation figures.

Investors, rattled by continuing scandals emerging from the government and confused by last week's interest rate decision, hope two questions will be answered. Are underlying inflationary pressures beginning to build and has the British consumer begun to retrench in reaction to January's media blitz on the size of April tax rises?

Sharp falls in shares, gilts and the pound last week were triggered by the apparent contradiction between the rate cut and the Chancellor's message

that growth is stronger than predicted and that tax rises will not have an impact. This was compounded by the Bank of England's warning that though inflation has turned out lower than expected in the past three months, the risks are now on the upside.

The latest business surveys have so far given no hint that confidence has begun to erode in the face of impending tax rises. A survey of independent companies by *3i*, published today, confirms this generally upbeat view. The latest *3i Enterprise Barometer*, which surveyed firms in late January, concluded that the pace of recovery is accelerating. Of the 1,000 companies surveyed, 61 per cent expected higher turnover and 57 per cent predicted

higher profits, the highest positive proportion since June 1989.

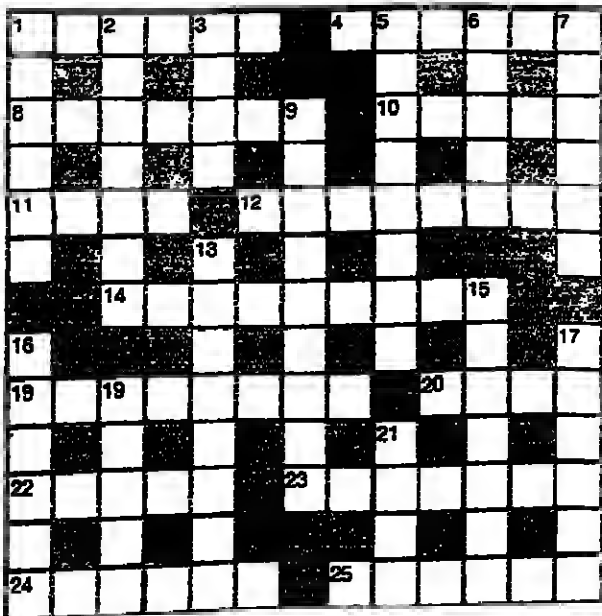
Ewen Macpherson, *3i* chief executive, said: "Confidence among the medium-sized business sector has now grown steadily over four successive quarters. These companies reflect the pace of economic activity and their growing confidence is enormously encouraging for the UK as a whole."

A big point of interest this week is Wednesday's figures for January retail sales after December's 0.2 per cent fall. Anecdotal evidence from the high street suggested January started well, but that the rest of the month was unspectacular. A Verdict survey last week indicated that purchasing intentions had softened since December.

The average City forecast for retail sales is for a rise in volumes of 0.8 per cent — a year on year 3.3 per cent. December's annual rate was 4 per cent.

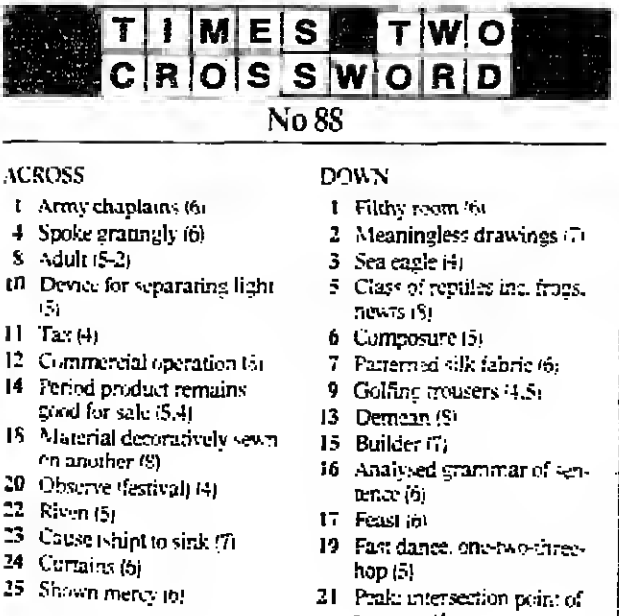
Other key indicators of economic activity due this week are the CBI's distributive trades survey, January unemployment figures on Wednesday, forecast to show another fall, and figures for industrial production, including manufacturing, expected to show only flat to modest December growth.

But after last week's Bank of England inflation report and the 4-point rate cut, it is this week's inflation figures which are most eagerly awaited. The markets expect headline inflation will jump from December's 1.9 per cent to about 2.6 per cent in January.

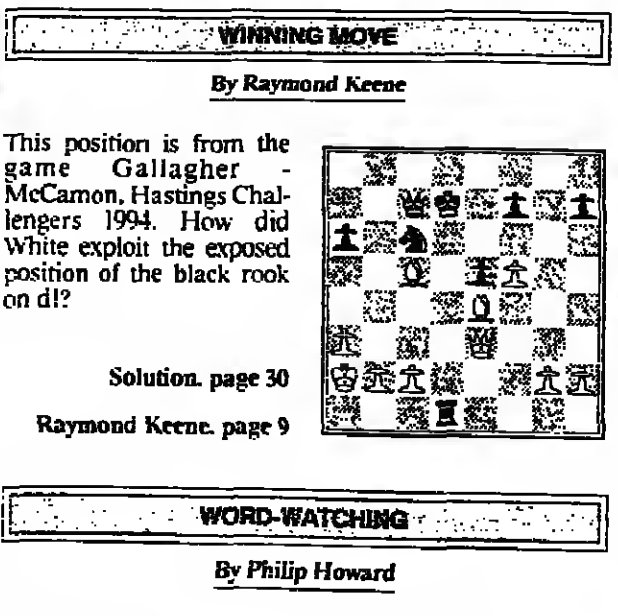


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SOLUTION TO NO 87
ACROSS: 3 Sea 9 Hoedown 10 Treadle 11 Trace 12 Coarse 14 Scared 15 Rosary 17 Hector 20 Liege 21 Dismiss 24 Implode 25 Naive 26 Dig
DOWN: 1 Rout 2 Ezema 3 Seed 4 Thief 5 Tentacle 6 Ligate 7 Emender 12 Cynical 13 Surveyor 16 Sherpa 18 Trill 19 Added 22 Song 23 Steen



AGRE
a. To torment or vex
b. Scarcely, hardly
c. A bradawl
BIVOX
a. To screw up the eyes
b. To transform
c. A double whammy
SALPICON
a. A kind of trumpet
b. Stuffing for veal
c. A ceremonial dancing floor
SNAPY
a. Boggy
b. Critical, censorious
c. A small, vicious terrier
Answers on page 30

Jermyn Street quality at affordable prices

You do not have to pay Jermyn Street prices for a superbly finished shirt. By dealing direct, we avoid London's expensive West End overheads and pass the benefit on to you. Yet we forfeit none of the quality.

The finest British fabrics
Our cotton shirts are made from pure, two-fold cotton poplin, the shirt fabric chosen by the world's most famous shirtmakers. Its rich lustre and silken feel make it cool and comfortable to wear all year round yet this quality of cotton poplin stands up to years of use.

Wide range of clothing for ladies and gentlemen
Our free colour brochure illustrates our wide range of clothing including shirts, trousers, nightwear and knitwear for men and women.

Choice of up to seven sleeve lengths
By offering a choice of up to 7 different sleeve lengths we ensure your shirts fit you perfectly. We combine this with generous cut, long tails and superb finishing to bring you a British shirt which will rival the finest made-to-measure shirt you can buy.

Embroidered initials — the ultimate distinction
Your own initials embroidered on your shirt gives it that ultimate distinctive touch. All part of our commitment to service.

Value for money
Don't miss this opportunity to take advantage of our introductory offer.

JAMES MEADE LIMITED
To: James Meade Limited, FREEPOST (SN1676), Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3BR. Or telephone 0264 333222 (24 hours). Please send me your FREE full colour brochure and table samples.
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BTYAN

Shoppers hold back

Shoppers are holding back on spending, according to a survey by the British Retail Association. The survey found that consumers are becoming more cautious about their purchases, particularly in the clothing and footwear sectors. This is attributed to concerns over the economy and the impact of recent interest rate cuts. Retailers are reporting a slowdown in sales growth, with many focusing on value for money and quality. The survey also highlighted the importance of customer service and the role of staff in influencing purchasing decisions. Overall, the findings suggest a more restrained consumer environment in the coming months.